

Walter Wingate 'The Sair Finger'

Teachers' Notes

If using this poem for recitation, these CfE Experiences and Outcomes may be targeted:

- I am exploring how pace, gesture, expression, emphasis and choice of words are used to engage others, and I can use what I learn. ENG 1-03a
- I have experienced the energy and excitement of presenting/performing for audiences and being part of an audience for other people's presentations/performances. EXA 1-01a

Worksheet CfE target:

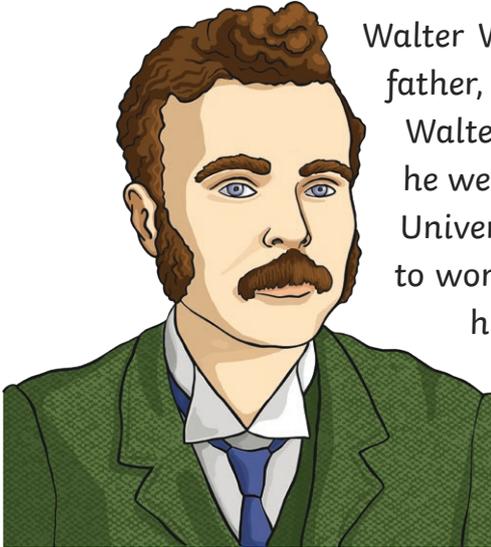
- To show my understanding across different areas of learning, I can identify and consider the purpose and main ideas of a text. LIT 1-16a

This pack contains:

- About the poet and poem information sheet.
- A4 display copy of the poem.
- The Sair Finger – two differentiated versions.

Walter Wingate 'The Sair Finger'

About the Poet and the Poem



Walter Wingate was born on 15th April 1865, in Dalry, Ayrshire. His father, David, was known locally for his own poems and songs.

Walter's family moved to Lanarkshire when he was very young and he went to school in Hamilton. When he was 16 he went to Glasgow University to study Mathematics. After he graduated, Walter wanted to work for the Indian Civil Service, but because of his poor eyesight his application was refused. Instead he decided to teach, and he was appointed as the mathematics master at St. John's Grammar School in Hamilton.

Walter Wingate published poems in the Glasgow Herald and Evening News, in magazines, and in collections of the Glasgow Ballad Club, but he never had a book of his own poems published in his lifetime. Walter Wingate died in 1918, aged 52.

The Sair Finger tells the story of a young child having a splinter removed from their finger. It is a much loved Scots poem that is a favourite for recitation



Walter Wingate 'The Sair Finger'



The Poem

You've hurt your finger? Puir wee man!

Your pinkie? Deary me!

Noo, juist you haud it that wey till

I get my specs and see!



My, so it is - and there's the skelf!

Noo, dinna greet nae mair.

See there - my needle's gotten't out!

I'm sure that wasna sair?

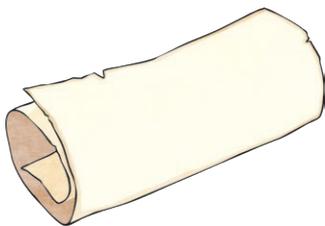


And noo, to make it hale the morn,

Put on a wee bit saw,

And tie a bonnie hankie roun't

Noo, there na - rin awa'!



Your finger sair ana'? Ye rogue,

You're only lettin' on.

Weel, weel, then - see noo, there ye are,

Row'd up the same as John!

Walter Wingate



Walter Wingate 'The Sair Finger' Worksheet A



CfE: To show my understanding across different areas of learning, I can identify and consider the purpose and main ideas of a text. **LIT 1-16a**

Read the poem below. Can you explain what the underlined Scottish words or phrases mean? Use the space around the poem to write your answers.

The Sair Finger
By Walter Wingate

You've hurt your finger? Puir wee man!

Your pinkie? Deary me!

Noo, juist you haud it that wey till

I get my specs and see!

My, so it is - and there's the skelf!

Noo, dinna greet nae mair.

See there - my needle's gotten't out!

I'm sure that wasna sair?

And noo, to make it hale the morn,

Put on a wee bit saw,

And tie a bonnie hankie roun't

Noo, there na - rin awa'!

Your finger sair ana'? Ye rogue,

You're only lettin' on.

Weel, weel, then - see noo, there ye are,

Row'd up the same as John!

→ This means poor.

Now, in your own words, explain what this poem is about:



Walter Wingate 'The Sair Finger' Worksheet B



CfE: To show my understanding across different areas of learning, I can identify and consider the purpose and main ideas of a text. **LIT 1-16a**

Read the poem below. Underline or highlight any Scottish words or phrases and, in the space around the poem, explain what they mean.

The Sair Finger
By Walter Wingate

You've hurt your finger? Puir wee man!
Your pinkie? Deary me!
Noo, juist you haud it that wey till
I get my specs and see!
My, so it is - and there's the skelf!
Noo, dinna greet nae mair.
See there - my needle's gotten't out!
I'm sure that wasna sair?
And noo, to make it hale the morn,
Put on a wee bit saw,
And tie a bonnie hankie roun't
Noo, there na - rin awa'!
Your finger sair ana'? Ye rogue,
You're only lettin' on.
Weel, weel, then - see noo, there ye are,
Row'd up the same as John!

→ This means poor.

Now, in your own words, explain what this poem is about:
