

# Robert Burns

## 'Up In The Morning Early'

### 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 can recognise how the features of spoken language can help in communication, and I can use what I learn. I can recognise different features of my own and others' spoken language. **ENG 2-03a**
- 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, EXA 2-01a**

**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**
- To show my understanding across different areas of learning, I can identify and consider the purpose and main ideas of a text and use supporting detail. **LIT 2-16a**

**This pack contains:**

- About the poet and poem information sheet.
- A4 display copy of the poem.
- Up In The Morning Early worksheet – two differentiated versions.

# Robert Burns

## 'Up In The Morning Early'

### About the Poet and the Poem

Robert Burns was born on 25th January 1759 in Alloway near Ayr. Robert worked as a farm labourer but he had learned to read and write from an early age. Robert composed poems and songs as he worked.

In 1786 Burns published some of his poems in a book entitled *Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect*. The book was a great success and Burns moved to Edinburgh where his poems and songs (and his company) were in great demand. He published another edition of his poems and went on to tour Scotland, collecting ideas for poetry and songs on the way.

Robert still needed to earn money, so he took on the tenancy of a farm in Dumfriesshire. He also accepted a post as an Excise Officer which he relied on for income when his farming venture failed. Robert's poor health brought on by extremely hard work and living conditions of the time meant that he died in Dumfries on 21st July 1796, at the age of thirty-seven.

A song writer was once known as a Bard. Robert Burns is sometimes called The Bard. He is well known as Scotland's national poet or Bard. On 25th January, Burns Night, Scots people all over the world celebrate the life of Robert Burns. They may go to a Burns Supper where poems and songs that Robert Burns wrote are recited or sung. A meal of Cock-a-leekie Soup followed by haggis, neeps and tatties is eaten.

*Up In The Morning Early* is a poem that describes the poet's dislike of getting up early on a Winter's morning. Burns describes a cold, windy and snowy landscape, where the birds are shivering and the hours of darkness are long. Given the living and working conditions as a farmer that Burns had to endure in the 18th century, we can understand why getting up early on a winter's morning is not to his liking!



# Robert Burns

## 'Up In The Morning Early'

### The Poem

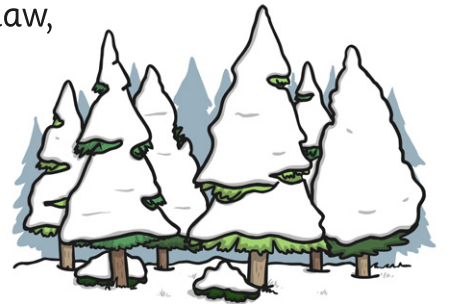
Cauld blaws the wind frae east to west,  
The drift is driving sairly;  
Sae loud and shrill I hear the blast,  
I'm sure it's winter fairly.

Up in the morning's no for me,  
Up in the morning early;  
When a' the hills are cover'd wi' snaw,  
I'm sure it's winter fairly.

The birds sit chittering in the thorn,  
A' day they fare but sparely;  
And lang's the night frae e'en to morn,  
I'm sure it's winter fairly.

Up in the morning's no for me,  
Up in the morning early;  
When a' the hills are cover'd wi' snaw,  
I'm sure it's winter fairly.

**Robert Burns**



# Robert Burns

## 'Up In The Morning Early'

### 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** | To show my understanding across different areas of learning, I can identify and consider the purpose and main ideas of a text and use supporting detail. **LIT 2-16a**

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.

This means cold.

#### Up In The Morning Early By Robert Burns

Cauld blaws the wind frae east to west,  
The drift is driving sairly;  
Sae loud and shrill I hear the blast,  
I'm sure it's winter fairly.

Up in the morning's no for me,  
Up in the morning early;  
When a' the hills are cover'd wi' snaw,  
I'm sure it's winter fairly.

The birds sit chittering in the thorn,  
A' day they fare but sparely;  
And lang's the night frae e'en to morn,  
I'm sure it's winter fairly.

Up in the morning's no for me,  
Up in the morning early;

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

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# Robert Burns

## 'Up In The Morning Early'

### 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** | To show my understanding across different areas of learning, I can identify and consider the purpose and main ideas of a text and use supporting detail. **LIT 2-16a**

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

This means cold.

#### Up In The Morning Early By Robert Burns

Cauld blaws the wind frae east to west,  
The drift is driving sairly;  
Sae loud and shrill I hear the blast,  
I'm sure it's winter fairly.

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

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