



When mid-term break is over, many teachers begin to turn to planning for a winter / Christmas performance. Rather than learning the song in isolation, these four prompts will hopefully give you a nice 6-week plan for November and December to get the children ready to sing their hearts out and use the song's theme as a cross-curricular planning resource.

This is an example for a group of 8-year-olds, so around 3rd class:

Prompt 1 - Get some ideas

I'd like you to suggest some songs that my class of 8 year olds can sing for a Christmas concert. I want the song to be a pop song and the children will need to be able to hit the notes.

Prompt 2 - Get some themes based on the song

Let's go with [SONG YOU HAVE PICKED] and I want you to come up with some themes in my classroom that I can use that are loosely or directly connected to the song in as many subjects in the Irish Primary Curriculum as possible.

Prompt 3 - Loosen it up away from being Christmas focused

As I'll be covering this from October, I'll need some ideas that have nothing to do with Christmas so I'd like to focus on non-Christmas themes relating to this song.

Prompt 4 - Get your 6 weeks of lessons

I want to plan a 6-week unit focused on the themes above, with activities in all the subjects that allow students to explore the theme. Could you structure lessons that integrate hands-on experiments, music creation, and movement-based activities, as well as literacy, numeracy and arts?