

Teacher's Guide – **ENGLISH** and **Performing Arts** at Wilton Windmill



Wilton Windmill is an inspiring venue which gives a fantastic focus for creative work. It could be used to support the teaching of English and Performing Arts, providing the stimulus for some creative writing or a musical or dramatic production. Included in the Wilton Windmill Education Pack are some sheets that may help you to maximise your visit. We would be delighted if you would email us any student work for possible inclusion on our website. Here are some ideas to inspire you further:

Creative Writing ~ Students could write a story or continue a starting sentence, such as ***'The cold March wind howled eerily through the sails of the old mill'...***

Poetry ~ Many poems have been inspired by windmills and two are included in the pack. The poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow is perfect to open discussion about the use of similes, metaphors and personification within poetry. The other poem, written by Hillaire Belloc, uses the collapse of the Mill as a metaphor for the tragic decay of the prevailing moral and social system. Interestingly, Hillaire Belloc owned Shipley Windmill, which was used in the television series ***'Jonathan Creek'*** as Creek's home.

Perhaps the students could read the poems and consider why they were written and what the author was trying to say. Discussion could ensue regarding the wording and context/era when it was written. Finding out more about the writers and their work could be undertaken in school before or after the visit. Many millers wrote poems - sometimes carved into timbers within their mills. Why do you think they did this? Students could write their own poems, having been inspired by a visit to Wilton Windmill and its surrounding environment.

Singing ~ The lyrics of two well known songs are included in the pack. Students may like to sing them whilst at the mill and could find the music to play along with.

English Language ~ The origins of so many everyday phrases used within the English language can be traced back to millers and windmills! Why do students think this is? Take a look at some of the ones provided in the pack and ask students to work out what they mean and how they relate to a windmill. There is another sheet within the pack that gives some examples of old Wiltshire dialect which students are sure to find interesting. Perhaps they would enjoy speaking with an old Wiltshire accent?

Drama ~ Many a windmill has featured in a film or TV programme – perhaps your students would like to find some? Could your students perform a play at Wilton Windmill, such as Geoffrey Chaucer's ***'The Millers Tale'***?