



# Burns Night Activity Pack

# *The history of Burns Night*

Burn's Night takes place in Scotland on the 25th January each year and celebrates the life of poet Robert Burns.

Robert Burns was born on 25 January 1759 and was thought of as the national poet of Scotland and celebrated worldwide. His most notable pieces of work were "Auld Lang Syne" which is traditionally sung worldwide as the clock strikes midnight on New Year's Eve. He also wrote "Scot's Wha Hae" which was viewed as the unofficial national anthem of Scotland for many years.

Traditionally on Burn's Night, a Burns supper takes place, which usually involves eating haggis, drinking Scotch whisky and reciting Burn's poetry.

At more formal Burns dinners, guests are usually greeted by a bagpiper as they arrive. The dinner begins with grace being said before a soup course, such as Scotch Broth, is served. Everyone stands as the haggis is brought in by the cook, lead by the bagpiper. The host of the dinner then recites 'Address to a Haggis', a poem written by Robert, before they tuck in. At the end of the dinner a number of speeches and toasts are given, before guests join in the singing of Burn's songs. Finally, at the end of the night the host calls on a guest to give a vote of thanks and everyone stands, joins hands, and sings "Auld Lang Syne".



# *Burns Night Menu*

**Main**

**Sides**

**Dessert**

## **Dietary Requirements**

GF: Gluten Free

V: Vegetarian

VV: Vegan

# Address to the Haggis

Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face,  
Great chieftain o' the pudding-race!  
Aboon them a' ye tak your place,  
Painch, tripe, or thairm:  
Weel are ye wordy o'a grace  
As lang's my arm.

The groaning trencher there ye fill,  
Your hurdies like a distant hill,  
Your pin wad help to mend a mill  
In time o'need,  
While thro' your pores the dews distil  
Like amber bead.

His knife see rustic Labour dight,  
An' cut you up wi' ready sleight,  
Trenching your gushing entrails bright,  
Like ony ditch:  
And then, O what a glorious sight,  
Warm-reekin', rich!

Then, horn for horn, they stretch an' strive:  
Deil tak the hindmost! on they drive,  
Till a' their weel-swallow'd kytes belyve  
Are bent like drums;  
Then auld Guidman, maist like to rive,  
Bethankit! hums.

Is there that owre his French ragout  
Or olio that wad staw a sow,  
Or fricassee wad make her spew  
Wi' perfect sconner,  
Looks down wi' sneering, scornfu' view  
On sic a dinner?

Poor devil! see him owre his trash,  
As feckless as wither'd rash,  
His spindle shank, a guid whip-last;  
His nieve a nit;  
Thro' bloody flood or field to dash,  
O how unfit!

But mark the Rustic, haggis-fed,  
The trembling earth resounds his tread.  
Clap in his walie nieve a blade,  
He'll mak it whistle;  
An' legs an' arms, an' heads will sned,  
Like taps o' thrissle.

Ye Pow'rs, wha mak mankind your care,  
And dish them out their bill o' fare,  
Auld Scotland wants nae skinking ware  
That jaups in luggies;  
But, if ye wish her gratefu' prayer,  
Gie her a Haggis!





# Auld Lang Syne

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,  
And never brought to mind?  
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,  
And auld lang syne?

For auld lang syne, my jo,  
For auld lang syne,  
We'll tak a cup o'kindness yet,  
For auld lang syne.

And surely ye'll be your pint-stowp!  
And surely I'll be mine!  
And we'll tak a cup o'kindness yet,  
For auld lang syne.

We twa hae run about the braes  
And pu'd the gowans fine;  
But we've wander'd mony a weary foot  
Sin auld lang syne.

We twa hae paidl'd i' the burn,  
Frae monin' sun til dine;  
But seas between us braid hea roar'd  
Sin auld lang syne.

And there's a hand, my trusty fiere!  
And gie's a hand o' thine!  
And we'll tak a right guid willy waught,  
For auld lan syne.

# Burns Night Poetry Writing

Encourage your pupils to write their own short poems just like Robert Burns!

Start off the activity by sharing some writing prompts for a bit of inspiration, such as:

- Scottish Culture
- Scottish Food
- Scottish Nature



Once all of your residents have decided on what they want to write about, let their creativity flow.

After the activity is over you could even gather up all of the poems and create your own Burns Night poetry book that you can leave out for children and visitors to enjoy!



# Burns Night Wordsearch

P	Y	A	U	L	D	L	A	N	G	S	Y	N	E
N	E	E	P	S	A	E	O	N	P	G	S	C	D
E	S	C	O	T	C	H	B	R	O	T	H	Y	W
E	U	B	A	G	P	I	P	E	S	B	S	K	U
S	B	P	P	O	E	T	R	Y	R	K	A	S	I
S	E	S	Y	Y	I	A	I	P	L	A	N	I	E
C	H	I	I	R	N	S	I	G	G	A	H	H	A
O	T	N	T	H	S	S	I	Y	C	T	S	W	W
T	P	A	A	T	E	B	U	R	N	S	R	I	E
L	S	A	A	N	A	S	L	A	P	R	I	T	D
A	Y	R	H	E	G	T	N	U	I	C	I	Y	T
N	T	I	I	A	R	E	N	N	I	D	A	N	O
D	N	R	O	B	E	R	T	A	R	T	N	L	N
P	R	N	G	O	E	I	N	J	T	R	C	A	U

ROBERT

NEEPS

DINNER

BURNS

JANUARY

POETRY

HAGGIS

AULD LANG SYNE

TATTIES

BAGPIPES

SCOTCH BROTH

SCOTLAND

# Burns Night Wordsearch

## Answers



ROBERT

NEEPS

DINNER

BURNS

JANUARY

POETRY

HAGGIS

AULD LANG SYNE

TATTIES

BAGPIPES

SCOTCH BROTH

SCOTLAND



# Burns Night Puzzle

Print off this page and stick the image onto a piece of cardboard, cut along the puzzle piece outlines to create your own puzzle!



# Burns Night colouring

