

## Good King Wenceslas vocabulary and storytelling

*Try to guess the order of these events in the story of Good King Wenceslas, then listen to the song and/ or read the lyrics below to check your answers*

- A) The servant found that the king's footsteps radiated heat and kept him warm
- B) King Wenceslas saw the man
- C) It snowed
- D) A man started collecting wood for a fire
- E) The servant said that the wind was too strong and he couldn't go on
- F) He asked his servant where the man lived
- G) The king told his servant to collect logs, meat and wine to take to the man's house
- H) The king and the servant started walking towards the man's house
- I) The servant told him that the man lived far away in the mountains
- J) The king told him to walk behind him and step into his footsteps in the snow

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Good King Wenceslas looked out  
On the feast of Stephen  
When the snow lay round about  
Deep and crisp and even  
Brightly shone the moon that night  
Though the frost was cruel  
When a poor man came in sight  
Gathering winter fuel

"Hither, page, and stand by me  
If thou know'st it, telling  
Yonder peasant, who is he?  
Where and what his dwelling?"  
"Sire, he lives a good league hence  
Underneath the mountain  
Right against the forest fence  
By Saint Agnes' fountain."

"Bring me flesh and bring me wine  
Bring me pine logs hither  
Thou and I will see him dine  
When we bear him thither."  
Page and monarch forth they went  
Forth they went together  
Through the rude wind's wild lament  
And the bitter weather



"Sire, the night is darker now  
And the wind blows stronger  
Fails my heart, I know not how,  
I can go no longer."

"Mark my footsteps, my good page  
Tread thou in them boldly  
Thou shalt find the winter's rage  
Freeze thy blood less coldly."

In his master's steps he trod  
Where the snow lay dinted  
Heat was in the very sod  
Which the Saint had printed  
Therefore, Christian men, be sure  
Wealth or rank possessing  
Ye who now will bless the poor  
Shall yourselves find blessing

*Find old fashioned words in the song that mean these things in modern English:*

- Your
- You know
- Sir
- Shall
- Servant
- Here
- Sir
- About 5.5 kilometres
- Meat
- Over there
- Where does he live?
- You
- Earth
- Poor farmer
- Boxing Day
- I can't go on
- Look at

### **Discussion**

- Do you think that there could be any truth in this story?
- Why do you think it's a popular Xmas song, even though it doesn't mention Xmas?
- What is the moral of this story? Do you think it makes its point well?
- What other Xmas stories do you know? What are their morals, do you think?

### **Storytelling**

*Work together to make another Xmas story with a clear moral, then compare stories with other groups. Your teacher will tell you if/ what you should write, and if you can use sources or not.*