

31st March

Memory verse for the week:

I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: **I will guide thee with mine eye.**
Psalm 32:8.

Keep practising your memory verse – and don't forget to have an occasional revision of last week's verse too.

A poem to read – and learn

Within a thick and spreading hawthorn bush,
That overhung a molehill large and round,
I heard from morn to eve a merry thrush
Sing hymns to sunrise, and I drank the sound
With joy; and often an **intruding** guest,
I watched her secret toil from day to day –
How true she **warped** the moss, to form a nest,
And modelled it within with wood and clay;
And by-and-by, like heathbells **gilt** with dew,
There lay her shining eggs, as bright as flowers,
Ink-spotted over shells of greeny blue;
And there I **witnessed** in the sunny hours
A brood of Nature's **minstrels** chirp and fly,
Glad as the sunshine and the laughing sky.



John Clare

Understanding words

There are only a few hard words in this poem and I have marked them. Here is a list of meanings. Can you match the meaning to the word in the poem? I have left a line so that if you can print this you can write it in the space. If you can't print the page you can write the words and meanings on a piece of paper.

Meanings:

- wove _____
- coloured gold _____
- singer _____
- saw _____
- unwelcome or uninvited _____

if you began a poetry memorisation programme on 5th January (if not look at that lesson and begin one now) you could include this one.

Something to listen to

If you are blessed with a garden you may have noticed the birds building their nests. Find a recording of a thrush¹ and you will know what John Clare heard “from morn to eve.” Some people

¹ such as this one: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fWSyv_E8Pxc

say that the thrush sings “Judy, Judy” and “did he do it? did he do it?”

Something to do

Today is the last day of March and spring is really getting underway. If you can find some twigs with buds on them (they will probably look just like little knobs at the moment, nothing more) in the garden or elsewhere pick just a few of the twigs. If you can get twigs with buds from several different trees or bushes so much the better. Bring them in and put them in a jam jar or glass full of water. Put this somewhere where it will not get knocked over. If you can put it in a sunny place that is not too hot that would be good. Now draw your twigs and write today's date under the drawing. Keep your drawing safe and look at the twigs in a week's time. What is different? Draw the twigs again and date the drawing again. If you keep on doing this you will have a record of the buds opening and the leaves appearing. Make sure there is always some water in the jar for your twigs to drink!

Something to make

You can make your own paper birds to hang up from the pattern in the optional resources file.

Drawing

You could try to draw the nest John Clare saw. Don't forget the mole hill! The nest in the poem is “Within a thick and spreading hawthorn bush” but if you want to draw one on a tree branch there is a video here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NGWhSfPUWi4> .