



**Hello! This is a
TEACHING RESOURCE PACK
for use with
MAT O' SHANTER**

A Cautionary Tale by Simon Lamb

Illustrated by Ross MacRae

Published by Scallywag Press

**We recommend using it with
students aged 9+. Enjoy!
Love, Team Scallywag x**

Mat o' Shanter is a stunning reimaging of a Scottish classic ('Tam o' Shanter' by Robert Burns) for the ears and eyes and hearts of today.

This teaching resource – prepared by the author – contains ideas for learning inspired by the book, grouped into four categories:

Say | Write | Make | Do

You may like to think of it as a bit of a pick 'n' mix. Help yourselves.

You are of course welcome to amend and adapt the ideas in this teaching resource as you see fit. It is only a guide, after all, and there are endless ways in which *Mat o' Shanter* can be used to inspire learning in classrooms and beyond.

If possible, please do tag us on social media as we'd love to see what you get up to. We hope you have fun sharing our wild Scottish adventure!

Resource by Simon Lamb (@SimonLambCreative • www.simonlambcreative.co.uk)

Published by Scallywag Press (@ScallywagPress • www.scallywagpress.com)

SAY

As a class or in small groups, give everyone the opportunity to read some text from the poem aloud. All voices should be heard.

As above, but with an extract from 'Tam o' Shanter'. Every voice has something to give.

Discussion points for whole class or groups:

- Why do you think 'Tam o' Shanter' has lasted for over 200 years?
- What elements of 'Tam o' Shanter' appear in 'Mat o' Shanter'?
- Favourite scenes / characters / illustrations in 'Mat o' Shanter'?
- What was the role of the crow in the art?
- What happened to Mat at the climax?
- What fate does Mat deserve and why?
- Why do you think the author wrote the poem and the book?
- What stood out most from the author's note? What can we learn from it?

WRITE

Write a prose version of the poem 'Mat o' Shanter' in the style of the author's prose version of 'Tam o' Shanter' found on pg8–10.

Write a monologue version of the story from the point of view of the crow.

Write the story from Mat's point of view.

Choose one moment in the story and write a detailed description of the scene, focussing on the descriptive elements.

Choose one of the places on Mat's map of Prestwick. Research it and create a fact-file.

Choose an old poem or story or song or fairytale and rewrite it for now.

Write a letter to the author, illustrator or publisher. (We'd be happy to receive them!)

MAT O' SHANTER

MAKE

Create a map of your hometown or area in the style of Mat's map of Prestwick (pg12–13). Where are *your* points of interest?

Create handmade or digital posters of the Scots words that appear in the book (see: pg102–107), featuring their definition.

Film and edit a section of the poem.

Choose a double-page spread in the poem and create a new illustration for it. Perhaps you could share the entire poem around the class, resulting in a new suite of illustrations.

Using the art in the book and online images, make a model of the Salt Pan Houses.

Research tartan and make a "Mat o' Shanter" tartan. (Remember, if you can, share anything you make with us. We'd really love to see.)

DO

As a class, learn a ceilidh dance.

In small groups, choose a scene in the poem and turn it into a piece of theatre, acting it out. Or be more ambitious and dramatise the entire story across your class.

Visit Prestwick! Go and walk around the locations featured in the poem. Or at least use Google Maps...

Watch the short film of 'Mat o' Shanter' online, read on location by the author. Note that the script uses a previous version of the poem with slight differences from the final printed version.

Watch the video of Karen Dunbar reading 'Tam o' Shanter' online (uploaded 6 June 2007). Note that this video is the one referred to in the book on pg95!