

# Verses and Songs

For Steiner/Waldorf Classrooms

The authors of the verses and songs presented here are not always clear, many have been handed down and handed down by teachers to teachers, from school to school. The first verse, the morning verse, is a traditional verse recited in schools all around the world.

## *Morning Verse*

The sun with loving light  
Makes bright for me each day.  
The soul with spirit power  
Gives strength into my limbs.  
In sunlight shining clear  
I reverence, O God,  
The strength of humankind  
Which thou, so graciously,  
Hast planted in my soul  
That I, with all my might,  
May love to work and learn  
From thee comes light and strength  
To thee rise love and thanks.

## *End of Day*

the vowels are the eurhythmy gestures

(A)--- Guarded from harm  
(E)--- cared for by angels  
(I)--- here stand we  
(O)--- loving and strong  
(U)--- truthful and good

### *Walking - Circle*

Little dwarves so short and strong  
Heavy-footed march along  
Every head is straight and proud  
Every step is firm and loud.

Pick and hammer each must hold  
Deep in the earth to mine the gold  
Ready over each one's back  
Hangs a little empty sack.

When the hard day's work is done  
Home again they march as one.  
Full sacks make a heavy load  
As they tramp along the road.

### *Centering Verse*

(I)--- Strong as a spear I stand  
(A)--- Strength fills my arms and legs  
(O)--- Warm is my heart with love

### *Speech Work*

Pitty Patty Polt  
Shoe the wild colt  
Here a nail / there a nail  
Pitty, Patty, Polt

### *End Verse*

Sun Moon and Stars above  
Me weave within the  
Heaven's blue -  
May I on earth a pattern  
Leave of words and deeds  
As true.

### *Circle March*

We are straight  
We are strong  
We are valiant and bold  
For the sun  
Fills our hearts  
With its life-giving gold

### *Encouraging verse*

Here we are with joyful hearts  
Working well and working hard  
Helping gladly, quick and bold  
Bringing joy to young and old

### *Verse before painting*

Now I take the brush so gently  
In my hand with loving care  
Watch the color flow so softly  
On the paper clean and clear.

### *Elf Song*

Tippety-toes, the smallest elf  
Sat on a mushroom by himself  
Playing a little tinkling tune  
Under the big round harvest moon  
And this is the song that Tippety made  
To sing to the little tune he played:  
"Red are the hips  
red are the haws,  
red and gold are the leaves that fall  
red are the poppies in the corn  
red berries on the rowan tall  
red is the big round harvest moon,  
and red are my new little dancing shoon."

### *Centering Verse*

this is good for when the class needs to be "hailed in", just say, "Dip, dip, dip.."

Dip Dip Dip  
My blue ship  
Sails along the water  
Like a cup and saucer  
Dip dip steady:  
I am ready!!!

### *Farewell to Morning*

The morning has ended  
We've done our best  
Good bye 'til tomorrow  
And have a nice rest.

### *Reinforcing Verse*

We are truthful and helpful  
And loving in trust  
For our heart's inner sun  
Glow's brightly in us.  
We will open our hearts  
To the sunbeams so bright  
And we'll fill all the world  
With our heart's inner light.

### *Numbers*

When at first we look at One  
We find it in the shining sun.

—  
For me and you,  
we count one, two.  
The day, the night  
The good, the bad  
The gay, the sad  
The girl, the boy  
We count with joy  
They all are twos  
That we can use.

—  
Father, mother, and child we see.  
Count them quickly: one, two, three,  
(this verse has a drawing included in the Waldorf ed. Slide show)

## *Handwork Verses*

I. To begin:

This is little Tommy Thumb  
Round and smooth like any plum.

This is little Peter Pointer  
Surely he is a double jointer

This is mighty Toby Tall  
He's the biggest of them all.

This is dainty Ruby Ring,  
Much too fine for many things.

This is Little Baby,  
So tiny and so shy,  
All the five we've counted now  
Busy fingers in a row  
Each one knows the way to go  
How to work and how to play.  
Yet together they work the best,  
Each one helping all the rest.

II. To end

My fingers are so sleepy,  
It's time they went to bed.

First you Little Baby,  
Tuck in your tiny head.  
Ruby Ring, now it's your turn,  
Next comes Toby Great.

Peter Pointer hurry  
Because it's getting late.  
Let's see if they're all nestled,  
No! - there's one to come,  
Move over please and make room  
For Tommy Thumb.

## *Three Jolly Gentlemen*

(good for circle)

Three jolly gentlemen  
In coats of red,  
Rode their horses up to bed.

Three jolly gentlemen  
Snored 'til morn,  
The horses chomping the golden corn.  
Three jolly gentlemen at break of day  
Got on their horses and rode away!

### *The Sun is in my Heart*

The sun is in my heart  
It warms me with its power  
And wakens life and love  
In bird and beast and flower.

—  
The stars above my head  
Are shining in my mind  
Like spirits of the world  
Than in my thoughts I find.

—  
The earth whereon I tread  
Let's not my feet go through  
But strongly doth uphold  
The weight of deeds I do.

—  
Then must I thankful be  
That man on earth I dwell  
To love and work the world  
And greet all people well.

### *Squirrel Nutkin*

Squirrel Nutkin has a coat of brown,  
quite the loveliest in woodland town;  
two bright eyes look round to see where the sweetest nuts may be.  
Squirrel Nutkin in his coat of brown scampers up the trees and down;  
dashing here and swinging there leaping lightly through the air.  
All the live long day he plays in the leafy woodland ways  
but at night when squirrels rest in their cosy treetop nest.  
(repeat tune for last section)  
bushy tail curled round his head, Mister squirrel goes off to bed.  
from *Sing Through the Day*

### *Marching Song*

This was a gift from a kindergarten teacher in New Zealand, it is called:

The Troll  
(winter into spring)  
Way back in the mountains  
In a rocky hole  
Lies a sleeping and a-snoring  
A big old troll

—  
lying on his left side

and turning on his right  
and if he's waking up sometimes  
he's sleeping on all night.

—  
It's now the coldest winter  
And under the snow does hide  
Big troll is not aware of it  
He's sleeping on his side.

—  
'Till on a happy morning  
the Sun gave such a heat  
that all the heavy winter snow  
was melted with much speed.

—  
The sunbeams are just laughing  
They never had such fun  
They're peeping in the rocky holes  
Oh fi there lies that big old troll still lazily in bed.

—  
they go in very softly and itch him on his nose!  
Hatshie Hatshoo and suddently  
That big old troll arose  
The sunbeams quickly disappear  
While calling back with glee,  
"Wake up, you troll, you lazy man  
maybe you have forgotten it, but  
Spring is coming on!!!"

## Rhythmic walking circles and mimes

### *Through the Park*

Hist! Hark! The night is very dark  
And we've to go a mile or so  
Across the Possum Park.

—  
Step light  
Keeping to the right  
Or we delay or lose our way  
We'll be out half the night.

—  
The clouds are low and gloomy  
Oh its just begun to mist  
We haven't any overcoats  
And hist! hist!

—  
morr rr porrrrk! morrrrr porrrrk!  
who was that that spoke?  
This is not a fitting spot  
To make a silly joke.

—  
Dear me, a morpork in a tree  
It jarred me so  
I did not know  
Whatever it could be.

—  
But come along  
Haste along  
Soon we shall be missed.  
They'll get a scare  
And wonder where we're  
Hist! hist!  
Croak Croak

—  
Oh, I've had a shock  
I hope and trust  
It's only just  
A frog behind a rock

—  
Shoo shoo  
We've had enough of you  
Scaring folk  
Just for a joke

Is not the thing to do.

—  
But come along  
Haste along  
Isn't it a lark?  
Just to roam  
So far from home  
Oh hist! hark!

—  
Look see  
Shining through the trees  
The window light  
Is glowing bright  
To welcome you and me.

—  
now Run Run Run,  
Oh, we've had such splendid fun  
Through the pond  
In the dark  
As BRAVE as anyone  
Laughed we did  
And chaffed we did  
And whistled all the way  
And we're home again  
Home again  
Hip hurray!!!!!!

Top

### *Autumn*

nice for the children to learn the verse in mime and eurhythmy:

"Come little leaves," said the wind on day.  
"Come o'er the meadow with me and play.  
Put on your dresses of red and gold.  
Summer is gone and the days grow cold."

As soon as the leaves heard the wind's low call,  
Down they came fluttering, one and all.  
Over the brown fields they whirled and flew,  
Singing the soft little songs they knew.

Dancing and whirling the little leaves went,  
Autumn had called them and they were content.  
Soon they will sleep in their soft earthly beds  
Waiting for winter to cover their heads.

### *Another Autumn Versus*

this one is well loved:

#### *Autumn*

Yellow the bracken,  
Golden the sheaves,  
Rosy the apples,  
Crimson the leaves,  
Mist on the hillside,  
Clouds grey and white,  
Autumn, good morning!  
Summer, good night!

### *Sixteenth Century Prayer*

God be in my head, and in my understanding.  
God be in my eyes, and in my looking.  
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking.  
God be in my heart, and in my thinking.  
God be at my end, and at my departing.

#### *Mother Earth*

Mother earth, mother earth,  
Take or seed and give it birth.  
Father sun, gleam and glow  
Until the roots begin to grow.  
Sister rain, sister rain  
Shed thy tears to swell the grain;  
Brother wind, breathe and blow  
Then the blade green will grow.  
Earth and sun and wind and rain  
Turn to gold the living grain.

### *Closing Verse*

Our work is done, our day is past,  
We'll go our separate ways.  
And I will hold so tight and fast  
What I have learned today.  
I've given with my heart and mind  
The effort that it needs.  
And I will strive in me to find,  
Good thoughts, good words, good deeds.

### *Belling the Cat*

The Mice once called a meeting  
To decide upon a plan.  
The Cat, their lifelong enemy,  
From whom they always ran,  
Was terrorizing all Mousekind,  
All day and all night through.  
When finally one smart, young Mouse  
Squeaked "I know what to do!"  
The plan was simple, oh so sweet,  
Around her neck they'd hang,  
A bell so bold and brassy it  
Would warn them with its clang.  
"How dense we've been to wait so long.  
Before we thought of that!"  
But one old wise and wary Mouse  
Asked: "Who will bell the Cat?"

### *Morning Kindergarten Verse*

To earth we come  
to greet the light  
to greet the sun.  
So God greets me  
In all I do,  
and you and I  
in God are one.

### *Children's song:*

The light of the sun is flooding  
The realms of space;  
The song of birds resounds  
Through fields of air;  
The tender plants spring forth  
>From Mother Earth,  
And human souls rise up  
With grateful hearts  
To all the spirits of the world.