



Exploring coal mining with folk song

The Miner's Dream

Written by Bryony Griffith

In partnership with

the National Coalmining Museum





The Full English Extra

The Full English Extra was an initiative to preserve and promote the folk arts, building on the success of EFDSS' flagship project The Full English, which created the world's largest digital archive of folk songs, dances, tunes and customs, and a nationwide learning programme that reached more than 16,000 people. The project was led by the English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS), funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The Full English Extra saw the collections of Mary Neal, suffragette, radical arts practitioner and founder of the Esperance Girls Club, and folk dance educator Daisy Caroline Daking added to the Vaughan Williams Memorial Library online archive (www.vwml.org), alongside its collection of 19th century broadside ballads and songsters.

The Full English learning programme worked with three national museums – the Museum of English Rural Life at the University of Reading, the National Coal Mining Museum for England near Wakefield in Yorkshire and the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, London – combining folk arts and museum education to provide powerful new learning experiences for schools and music hubs.

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Additional Resources: Audio recordings of all the songs in this pack are available for free download from www.efdss.org/resourcebank.

The Miner's Dream

Written by Bryony Griffith with Year 5/6 pupils from Streethouse Junior & Nursery School. Tune by Bryony Griffith.

Streethouse Junior & Nursery School lies opposite the site of the former Sharlston Colliery which closed in 1993, a decade later than many others in the area. The Miner's Dream was written with Year 5 and 6 pupils after discussing how it would have felt going down the mine every day and then all of a sudden, never going down again when the mine was forced to close and many people in the area lost their jobs.



© NCMME

The Miner's Dream Lyrics

1. The sun shines bright above the pit,
The miner starts his twelve hour shift,
He dreams of sitting in the sun,
But the moon is up when his work is done.
If only he could work outside,
And breathe the air of the countryside,
Have a nice hot meal instead of snap,
And eat it up without the rats.

Chorus: But now the miner's dream has changed,
He dreams of mining coal again,
Where once he went down underground,
The coal lies still for miles around,
He'll never go a-mining anymore

2. Down in the cage and a long dark walk,
At least his mates are there to talk,
Although the dangers there are real,
He doesn't show the fear he feels
Repetitive, exhausting, tough,
His face is black, his skin is rough,
He's claustrophobic, hot and tired,

And deafened as the blasts are fired

But now the miner's dream has changed,
He dreams of mining coal again,
Where once he went down underground,
The coal lies still for miles around,
He'll never go a-mining anymore

3. The pits are shut, the jobs are gone,

He's home alone now, it's no fun,
less freedom than he had before,
no wages coming through the door.
Another job, what could he do,
When mining's all he ever knew,
He feels he's let his family down,
and wants to work back underground

But now the miner's dream has changed,
He dreams of mining coal again,
Where once he went down underground,
The coal lies still for miles around,
He'll never go a-mining anymore
He'll never go a-mining anymore

The Miner's Dream

By Bryony Griffith with Year 5/6 at Streethouse J I & Nursery School

Piano

6
But now the min-er's dream has changed, he dreams of min-ing
But now the min-er's dream has changed, he dreams of min-ing

12
coal a-gain, where once he went down un-der-ground, the coal lies still for miles a-round, he'll ne-ver go a-
coal a-gain, where once he went down un-der-ground, the coal lies still for miles a-round, he'll ne-ver go a-

18
min - ing an - y - more. *rit*
min - ing an - y - more. *rit*

22
ne - ver go a - min - ing an - y - more. *rit*
ne - ver go a - min - ing an - y - more. *rit*

The Miner's Dream Questions

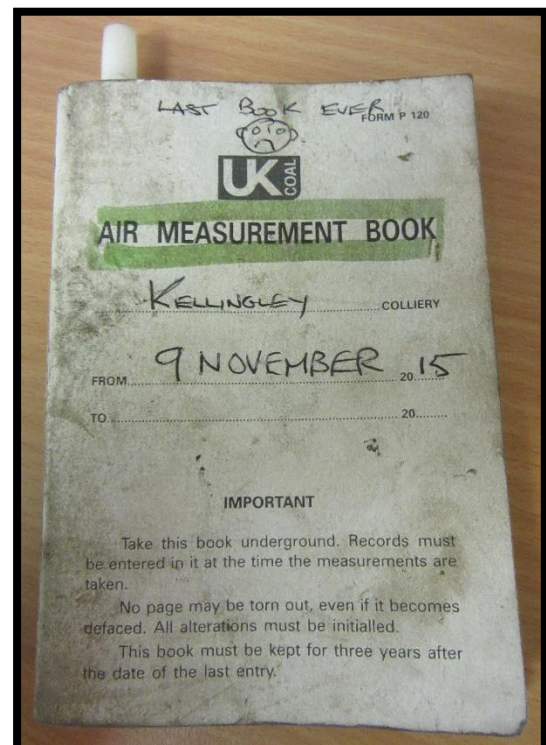
Listen to the song 'The Miner's Dream' or read the lyric sheet.

1. Make a list of adjectives that describe how you would feel if you had to work down a mine all day. You could use your list of words from the initial activities to help you.
2. Describe how the miner's dream has changed.
3. How would you feel if you lost your job?
4. Why do you think lots of coal mines closed?

(In the early 1980s the British Government closed over 20 coal mines in Yorkshire because it was cheaper to import coal from other countries in the world than to pay the miners a decent wage.)

5. What effect do you think this had on mining communities?
6. Do you think the government made a good decision?
7. See if you can find out when and where the last deep coal mine in England closed.

© Bryony Griffith



The National Coal Mining Museum for England

The National Coal Mining Museum for England is the museum of the English coalfields and is based near Wakefield in West Yorkshire. Set on the site of two historic pits, the Museum gives an insight into a unique way of life and culture.

The Museum's evocative original pit buildings and interactive galleries tell the story of the thousands of people who laboured in the industry and what it was like to grow up in a mining community. The Museum's nature trail and mine water treatment plant with reed beds show how, even today, coal mining leaves its mark on the landscape.

The highlight of a visit to the Museum, however, is a trip underground. With a former miner as their personal guide, visitors ride the cage 140 metres underground in a shaft dating back to 1791, to discover first-hand what life was like at the coal-face.

The Museum runs a vibrant learning programme for school groups, welcoming over 18,000 pupils every year. The combination of historic buildings, galleries and natural landscape provide a unique creative learning space where pupils can investigate the past, solve a scientific problem, dress-up, touch the real thing, sketch, observe and be amazed. The Education team offer a series of workshops and trails, which support learning across the curriculum and provide a stimulus for lots of creative projects.

For more information about learning opportunities at the Museum, please visit the website www.ncm.org.uk/learning

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Wakefield Music Services

Lead Organisation for the Wakefield Music Education Hub



Wakefield Music Services is the Lead Organisation for Wakefield Music Education Hub. They are proud to teach over 7,000 young musicians every week and run over 70 progressive ensembles and groups. They also organise and run a wealth of concerts, projects and events throughout the year. Their belief that practical music making is for everyone through an inclusive approach not only ensures that each individual makes musical progress but that they also develop a wider range of educational, social and life skills.

The music service also offer a broad range of support and CPD for schools in a drive to continue to raise national curriculum standards and broaden musical opportunities. This includes the delivery of highly acclaimed training across the country and publishing a variety of original resources that are used in schools.

Musical opportunities have continued to grow and enrich over the last few years as they have developed new, exciting and innovative projects with other arts and cultural organisations.



Providing Teaching Directing Forging Inspiring Fostering Creating Building Serving & Delivering
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www.wakefieldmusicservices.org

Biography: Bryony Griffith



Bryony Griffith is a musician and singer with over 20 years of experience researching folk material, and devising innovative ways of presenting it for use in performance and education work with children, young people and adults. Bryony's skills and enthusiasm encompass solo performance, duo and band work, and also extensive experience of playing for folk dancing. Her solo album, *Nightshade*, was released in 2014.

Bryony is an experienced folk educator in school settings, including education work linked with the National Coal Mining Museum. Bryony is in much demand by festival organisers to lead music and singing workshops, including the Folkworks Summer Schools, Shepley and Whitby folk festivals.

As a performer, Bryony works as a solo artist, and also in a duo with melodeon player and dancer Will Hampson. Over the last 15 years, they have both been key members of the award-winning Demon Barbers. Their partnership started in the acclaimed ceilidh band Bedlam in their early teens which took them all over the UK festivals and gave rise to the formation of the young Cotswold side, Dogrose. They later joined the celebrated Newcastle Kingsmen. Bryony was also a member of the *a cappella* group The Witches of Elswick.

www.bryonygriffith.com



Explore The Full English digital archive

www.vwml.org/thefullenglishproject

Discover more learning resources

www.efdss.org/resourcebank