



# The Rainbow Fairies



## Programme 1

11 January

By Bernagh Brims

The first of four programmes on colour, looking among other things at dark and bright colours and colour camouflage.

Many teachers may have already chosen this popular topic for a variety of projects. These programmes are designed to complement classroom projects, or to stand on their own.

## Poems

### Colours

What is blue? The sky is blue where the clouds float through.  
 What is white? A swan is white sailing in the light.  
 What is yellow? Pears are yellow, rich and ripe and mellow.  
 What is green? The grass is green with small flowers between.  
 What is violet? Clouds are violet in the summer twilight.  
 What is orange? Why.....an orange,  
 Just an **ORANGE**.

*(extract – Christina Rossetti)*

### What is red?

Red is a sunset, blazing and bright.  
 Red is feeling brave, with all your might.  
 Red is sunburn on your nose.  
 Sometimes red is a red, red rose.  
 Red squiggles out when you cut your hand.  
 Red is a brick and the sound of a band.  
 Red is a show-off, no doubt about it –  
 But can you imagine, living without it?

*(extract – Mary O'Neill)*

## Story: Based on the poem “The Rainbow Fairies” by L M Hadley

Two little clouds, one summer’s day,  
 Went flying through the sky;  
 They went so fast they bumped their heads,  
 And both began to cry.

Old Father Sun looked out and said:  
 “Oh, never mind, my dears,  
 I’ll send my little fairy folk  
 To dry your falling tears.”

One fairy came in violet,

And one wore indigo;  
In blue, green, yellow, orange, red,  
They made a pretty row.

They wiped the cloud-tears all away,  
And then from out the sky,  
Upon a line the sunbeams made,  
They hung their gowns to dry.

## Songs

### Colours

I know a man called Mister Red,  
He wears saucepans on his head.  
I know a man called Mr Black,  
He keeps peanuts in a sack.

I know a man called Mister Pink,  
He fell head-first in the sink.  
I know a man called Mister Blue,  
He keeps white mice in his shoe.

I know a man called Mister Brown,  
He rides tigers into town.  
I know a man called Mister Green,  
Nicest man I've ever seen.

*Joan Raeside*

## Sing A Rainbow

words and music: Arthur Hamilton

1  
Red and yel-low and pink and green, Pur-ple and or-ange and blue,

5  
I can sing a rain-bow, Sing a rain-bow, Sing a rain-bow too.

9  
Lis-ten with your eyes, Lis-ten with your eyes and sing ev'ry thing you see.

13  
You can sing a rain-bow, Sing a rain-bow, Sing a-long with me.

17  
Red and yel-low and pink and green, Pur-ple and or-ange and blue. Now

21  
we can sing a rain-bow, Sing a rain-bow, Sing a rain-bow too.

**After the programme****words for discussion:-** a 'dull' colour; chameleon; a rath

- Sort and classify a variety of objects by colour.
- Make colour charts.
- Learn and recognise the more unusual colour names (e.g. beige, maroon, scarlet, peach, lilac, olive, crimson, lemon, mauve, cream).
- Discuss bright/dull or dark/light colours. Make charts or lists of each type. (Many of the choices are subjective and could lead to discussion about **shades** of colours).
- Discuss use of bright colours (i.e. for warning notices; zebra crossings; wearing light colours at night or florescent armbands).
- Draw seven fairies and colour each in one of the colours of the rainbow.
- Discuss animal and plant camouflage. (**NB** animals and insects use colour to **hide**)

themselves for protection or to **disguise** themselves before attack, or to make themselves very noticeable and distinctive to warn off predators).

- Discuss and list objects, animals or fruit and vegetables which are **always** the same colour and those which can **vary**.

<b>e.g.</b>	<b>Same</b>	<b>Different</b>
	Ambulance	Cars
	Elephants	Dogs
	Oranges	Apples

- Experiment with mixing paints.
- Try putting blobs of different coloured paints on damp blotting paper and watch how they mix and spread.
- Most poetry anthologies contain poems about colour. Highly recommended is 'Hailstones and Halibut Bones' by Mary O'Neill (published by World's Work) containing twelve poems about different colours (NB see extract "What is Red?")
- Read 'How the Leopard Got Its Spots' from 'Just So Stories' by Rudyard Kipling.

## *Northern Ireland Curriculum*

### English

**Talking and Listening:** Pupils should have opportunities to: explore stories, poems and songs, recreating parts of them in art, drama, and other expressive activities.

**Writing:** Experiment with words.

**Reading:** Pupils should develop the ability to: talk with the teacher about the ways in which language is written down, identifying phrases, words, patterns of letters and other features of written language.

### Science

#### Living Things:

**Ourselves:** Pupils should be given opportunities to: observe seasonal changes and talk about how these affect themselves.

**Animals and Plants:** Discuss the use of colour in the natural environment (e.g. animal camouflage)

**Carrying out and making:** Make observations using their senses making observations noting similarities and differences.

#### Materials:

**Properties:** Explore the properties of materials including shape, colour, texture and behaviour.

#### Physical Processes:

**Light:** Explore the use of light including colour in relation to road safety.

**Art & Design Materials, Tools and Processes:** Pupils should have opportunities to: experiment with paint; develop an awareness of colour e.g. by being able to recognise colours and how they might be mixed.

**Maths Handling Data:** Pupils should have opportunities to: sort everyday objects and talk about the reasons for sorting; collect data and record it.

*Cross-Curricular Links*

