Teacher’s Overview
In this lesson, children will be introduced to the Green Man and his link to the Summer Solstice celebrations. They will compose and perform a poem to celebrate the Summer Solstice.

National Curriculum 2014 Link
To identify the audience for the purpose of the writing, selecting the appropriate form and using other similar writing as models.
To perform their own compositions, using appropriate intonation, volume and movement so that meaning is clear.

Starter
0-10 minutes
Introduce the concept of the Green Man through the ThinkIt ‘The Green Man’.

Main
15-30 minutes
Explain that today children will be writing and performing a poem to celebrate the Summer Solstice.

Read with the children the following poem.

Summer time is arriving but what’s that creeping in the garden?
His hair is as soft as ferns, which move gently in the breeze.
His eyes are as white as snowdrops, which glisten brightly in the Sun.

Ask the children in small groups to think of other words and phrases that could describe the Green Man's appearance. Think of how we could describe his nose, ears, mouth, and hair. Discuss and display the children’s suggestions.

Activity
30–50 minutes
Now ask the children to write a short poem describing the Green Man.

Challenge
Challenge children by asking them to include how his reappearance each year acts as a joyous reminder of summers beginning.
Take the children to an outside area and in small groups, practise performing their poem.

Plenary
50-60 minutes
Children perform their poem to the rest of the class as a celebration of the Summer Solstice.

Notes for Teachers
The Green Man has been mentioned throughout history for thousands of years. In Celtic mythology he is the god of spring and summer who appears each year in time for summer and disappears in the winter. In pre-Christian religions, trees were sacred and forests were places thought to hold gods and nature spirits. The Green Man is often depicted as a man’s face covered with leaves. In the past, people were much more aware of the effects of longer daylight hours and the changing seasons and so the ‘Green Man’ was sometimes honoured at times such as the Spring Equinox (when the length of daylight hours roughly equals the length of night hours) and the Summer Solstice (The day in a year with the longest daylight hours).