

Mr Vinegar

by Tamar Eluned Williams

In a vinegar bottle by the salt sea tide
Lived Old Mr Vinegar and his Vinegar Bride.
All day Mrs Vinegar laughed and beamed
She scrubbed their bottle until it gleamed
We're so happy, Mr Vinegar - "Hapus ydyn ni."
But Old Mr Vinegar? He didn't agree.

One day Mrs Vinegar had had enough
Roedd Mr Finegar yn pwdu. He was in a huff.
Dyma bedwar darn aur - four pieces of gold
Go, buy us a cow, bring it home, do as you're told
We'll make butter in our bottle by the salt sea
Go make us a fortune. Bant â ti.

So, Mr Vinegar walked. Cam wrth gam.
And there, with a cow, he saw an old man.
I've got my little cow, and soon you'll see
Now we'll be rich, in our bottle by the sea
Back home I'll go, bant â fi!



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Mr Vinegar walked. Cam wrth gam.
But there, playing the bagpipes, was another old man.
If I played those pipes, I could bring in some pay
He swapped cow for pipes and went on his way
Though I've no cow any longer, it's no matter to me
Now we'll be rich, in our bottle by the sea.
Back home I go, bant â fi!

Cerddodd Mr Finegar. Cam wrth gam.
Ond 'drych yna, look there, another old man.
His pipeplaying fingers were cold to the bone
And honestly all he could make was a drone
So Mr Vinegar swapped: pipes for gloves, and he strode
Cam wrth gam, ar y ffordd, back on the road.
No cow, or the bagpipes, but no matter to me
Cyfoethog fyddem ni, yn ein potel fach ni
Yn ôl adre dwi'n mynd - bant â fi.

Cerddodd Mr Finegar. Cam wrth gam.
And sure enough - look, another old man.
By now he was tired. Wedi blino'n lân.
He swapped gloves for a walking stick - an excellent plan!
No cow, pipes, or gloves, but still you'll see
Cyfoethog fyddem ni, yn ein potel fach ni
Yn ôl adre dwi'n mynd - bant â fi.



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Cerddodd Mr Finegar. Cam wrth gam.
In a tree was a parrot, it laughed and it sang
"Mr Vinegar you fool, your fortune you've lost!"
Vinegar stamped his foot, the stick he did toss
Oh what have I done, it's all over for me
No cow, pipes, gloves, or stick (it's gone in the sea)
Empty-handed I go, bant â fi.

In a vinegar bottle by the salt sea tide
Lived Old Mr Vinegar and his Vinegar Bride.
All day Mrs Vinegar laughed and beamed
She scrubbed their bottle until it gleamed
We're so happy, Mr Vinegar - "Hapus ydyn ni."
And Old Mr Vinegar? He had to agree.

Watch the accompanying rhyme video at www.booktrust.org.uk/bigwelshrhymetime



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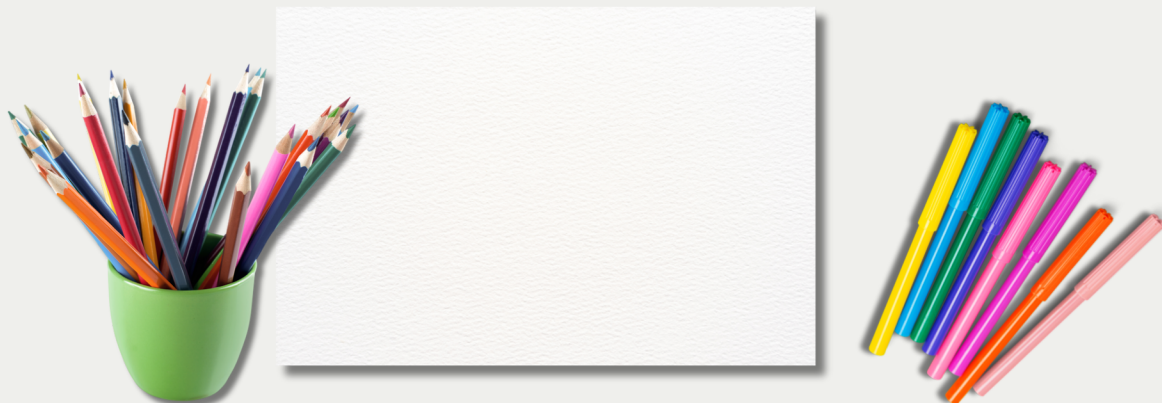
Mr Vinegar: Activity explainer (to be used alongside video)

How to make a story map

Purpose: to encourage children to map the rhyming story visually, step by step, to remember cause and effect, and to use visual story maps as a reminder when they are telling the story and sharing the poem.

Step 1: Gather materials

Paper, pencils, coloured pencils or felt-tips - try and make the story maps visually exciting.



Step 2: What are the steps of the story?

- Ask your group to help remind you of what happens in the poem.
- Draw out each stage visually – you may end up with more visuals than I have in the video.
- Ask them to help add details orally e.g. “What colour cow was it?” You may also want to help them imagine some of the more complicated visuals for themselves e.g. show them some images of bagpipes.
- Ask them to help you to put the images in narrative order depending on what happens in Mr Vinegar’s story.



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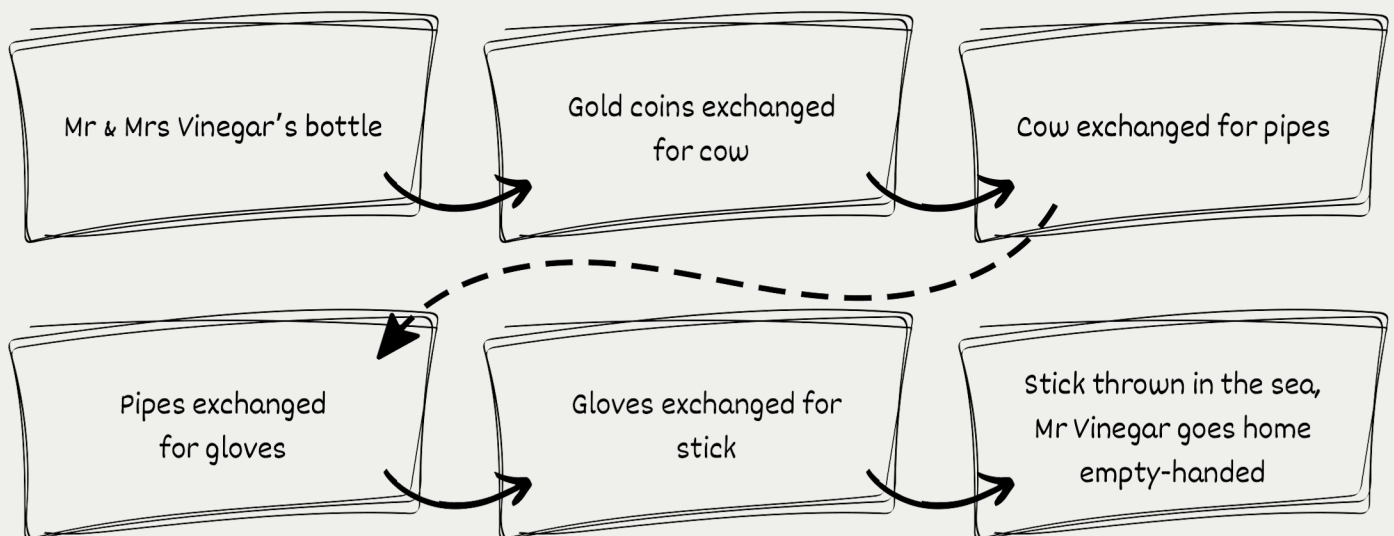
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How to make a story map

Step 3: Create a story map

Note: You can do this as a whole group, or in small groups on a large piece of paper, or individually.

Importantly, your story map doesn't have to look anything like mine! You might find using a series of boxes will help them order the story clearly e.g.



Or you (and they) may enjoy finding another visually exciting and creative way of mapping out what happens in the poem!



Mr Vinegar: Activity explainer (to be used alongside video)

How to make a story map

Step 4: Tell Mr Vinegar's story

Use the story maps to help tell Mr Vinegar's story. Some tips and tricks:

- Get them to work in pairs to tell the story back and forth to each other and help each other out.
- Set up a "storytelling chair" where each child can have a go at telling the story (you can help to prompt them or show them their maps as they go).
- Layer in some key gestures to help remind them of the stages of the poem, like the ones I use in the video e.g.

"Mr Vinegar walked, cam wrth gam" – walking motion on flat palm

"Back home I go, bant â fi" – gesturing over shoulder

You can make up some of your own if you want to! What gesture represents Mr Vinegar? Or the bagpipes?



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