The Months is a poem by Christina Rossetti, which describes every month of the year.

LITERACY LESSON IDEAS

The Months is a fantastic poem to aid learning about the months of the year, the four seasons and weather, as well as poetry.

- Read the poem to your class and see our Word Wise Sheet to discover the meanings of some of the more unusual words in the poem.
- Now you understand the meanings, which months do you think the poet liked least? Which months are her favourite? Why?
- Talk about what each month of the year means to you. Which months do you like and dislike?
- Also see our Word Wise Sheet for comprehension and writing exercises.
- See another poem about months of the year by Flora Willis Watson on our Compare the Poems Sheet. Look for similarities and differences in the words used and how the poems rhyme.
- The Months begins with short rhyming couplets, which get longer as the poem progresses. Also, some of the couplets begin with the name of the month and some end with the name of the month. Using our poem as inspiration, write your own short rhyming couplets about the months on our Poetry Sheet. Download our Poetry Writing Resource Pack for help. Visit http://www.storytimeforschools.com/teaching-resources/
- Use the poem to help you learn the 12 months of the year and the order they are in. Complete The Months: Order It! activity too.

Continued on page 2...
The Months: Match It! activity checks how well readers remember the poem and the adjectives used to describe each month. What adjectives would you use to describe each month? Collect as many as you can.

Also complete our The Months: Poem Wordsearch, which will ensure your pupils get familiar with the spellings of each month.

Complete our Know the Months Quiz, which will test everyone’s knowledge.

Round off your learning with our Missing Months activity and our Months and Seasons Match game.

**MATHS LESSON IDEAS**

Combine learning about the months with learning about tally charts. Conduct a survey in your class to find out the months in which your pupils were born, and discover which month is the most popular for birthdays. Use our Birthday Months Tally Chart for this.

**ART LESSON IDEAS**

Make your own personal calendar. Print out our 2018 Calendar Page and make a front page for it. Decorate it with a drawing or photo. Don’t forget to mark special days on your calendar.

You could fill in the front page of your calendar by completing our Drawing Challenge or by drawing a picture of your favourite month using our Months Picture Frame. Look at the pictures in our poem for inspiration.

You can also colour in pictures inspired by all four seasons on our The Months: Colouring Sheet.
WORD WATCH
Find out what some of the more unusual words mean in Storytime Issue 41’s poem, *The Months*.

- Desolate – bare or gloomy
- Ranges – changes, varies
- Scorched – burnt
- Bears – carries, produces
- Disrobe – strip, undress
- Keen – enthusiastic
- Bleak – cold, wintry

WINTER POETRY
Christina Rossetti also wrote a poem called *In the Bleak Midwinter*, which was turned into a Christmas carol. Read the following lines alongside, *The Months*. What word is used in both poems? How does Rossetti feel about winter? Write a sentence about her feelings.

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

POETRY PERSONIFICATION
The poet uses personification to describe one of the months of the year. Which one is it? Is the month male or female?
1. Which month has the longest day?

________________________________________________________________________

2. When do the shooting stars fall?

________________________________________________________________________

3. When is the night long?

________________________________________________________________________

4. When can you harvest corn?

________________________________________________________________________

5. What happens in May?

________________________________________________________________________

6. Which month is hottest?

________________________________________________________________________

7. Which month is wettest?

________________________________________________________________________

Imagine January is a person. Can you think of five words to describe him or her? Write them here.
THROUGH THE YEAR
by Flora Willis Watson

January falls the snow,
February cold winds blow,
In March peep out the early flowers,
And April comes with sunny showers.

In May the roses bloom so gay,
In June the farmer mows his hay,
In July brightly shines the sun,
In August harvest is begun.

September turns the green leaves brown,
October winds then shake them down,
November fills with bleak and smear,
December comes and ends the year.

How is this poem similar to The Months by Christina Rossetti, and how does it differ?
Write a poem about the months of the year – or write it about your three favourite months. Look at the words below for inspiration.
POEMS AND RHYMES: THE MONTHS

ORDER IT!

Put the months in the right order by writing their names in the boxes numbered 1 to 12.

1. ______________________
2. ______________________
3. ______________________
4. ______________________
5. ______________________
6. ______________________
7. ______________________
8. ______________________
9. ______________________
10. ______________________
11. ______________________
12. ______________________
Can you match the adjectives to the months? Look at the poem again if you need help.

Now match these pictures from the poem to the months:

- September
- May
Can you find all twelve months of the year in our wordsearch grid?

**MONTHS WORDSEARCH**

**ANSWER:**

- **JANUARY**
- **JULY**
- **FEBRUARY**
- **AUGUST**
- **MARCH**
- **SEPTEMBER**
- **APRIL**
- **OCTOBER**
- **MAY**
- **NOVEMBER**
- **JUNE**
- **DECEMBER**
How well do you know the months of the year? Find out here.

1. What month comes before July?

2. How many months are in one year?

3. The fourth month of the year is...

4. New Year’s Day is in...

5. What month comes between April and June?

6. The eighth month of the year is...

7. What month comes after February?

8. The school year starts in...

9. How many seasons are in one year?

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KNOW THE MONTHS QUIZ CONTINUED....

10 Christmas Day is in...
   ______________________

11 How many months are in each season?
   ______________________

12 Halloween is in...
   ______________________

13 What month comes between October and December?
   ______________________

14 The second month of the year is...
   ______________________

15 Which month is two months before September?
   ______________________

MONTHS IN A MUDDLE!
Unscramble the letters to work out which months are below.

RAJAYUN ______________________
BREMoven ______________________
MISSING MONTHS

Fill in the missing months in the sequences below.

NOVEMBER ___________ JANUARY
MAY ___________ JULY
AUGUST ___________ OCTOBER
JANUARY ___________ MARCH
JUNE ___________ AUGUST
OCTOBER ___________ DECEMBER
MARCH ___________ MAY
DECEMBER ___________ FEBRUARY
MONTH AND SEASON MATCH

Draw a line from the month to the season it is in.

JUNE
MARCH
JANUARY
MAY
FEBRUARY
NOVEMBER
OCTOBER
JULY
SEPTEMBER
DECEMBER
AUGUST
SPRING
AUTUMN
WINTER
SUMMER
Inspired by the pictures in our poem, draw a simple picture to represent each month of the year. Look at the box below for an example and inspiration.
The month with the most birthdays is ________________

Complete a class tally chart to find out which month has the most birthdays in it. Add up the total at the end of each row. Which month has the most birthdays? Which month has the least?

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What’s your favourite month of the year? Draw a picture of it here.
POEMS AND RHYMES: THE MONTHS

COLOURING SHEET

Colour in the pictures inspired by our poem. Use different colours for each season – see below for ideas.