



ACTIVITY SHEET

YELLOW ON THE BROOM

Lyrics

I ken ye dinna like it lass tae winter here in toon
For the scaldies aye miscry us and they try tae bring us doon
It's hard tae raise three bairnies in a single flea box room
But I'll tak ye on the road again when yellow's on the broom

When yellow's on the broom, when yellow's on the broom
I'll tak ye on the road again when yellow's on the broom

The scaldies cry us tinker and they scone oor weans at school
But who cares whit a scaldy thinks for a scaldy's just a fool
They never hear the yorlan's sang nor see the flax in bloom
For they're aye cooped up in hooses when yellow's on the broom

When yellow's on the broom, when yellow's on the broom
They're aye cooped up in hooses when yellow's on the broom

Nae sale for pegs nor baskets noo, sae just tae stay alive
We have tae work at scaldy jobs frae nine o'clock tae five
But we ca' nae man oor maister for we own the world's room
And we'll bid fareweel tae Brechin when yellow's on the broom

When yellow's on the broom, when yellow's on the broom
We'll bid fareweel tae Brechin when yellow's on the broom

**I'm weary for the springtime when we tak the road aince mair
Tae the plantin' and the pearlin' and the berry fields o' Blair
We'll meet up wi oor kin folk frae a' the country roon'
When the gang-aboot folk tak the road and yellow's on the broom**

**When yellow's on the broom, when yellow's on the broom
When the gang-aboot folk tak the road and yellow's on the broom
When yellow's on the broom, when yellow's on the broom
I'll tak ye on the road again when yellow's on the broom**

Translations

- ken – know
- dinna – don't
- tae – to
- toon – town
- scaldie – in the language of the Scottish travellers, a scaldie is a person from the settled, house dwelling population
- bairnies – children
- tak – take
- sconce – jeer/to scoff
- oor – our
- weans – children
- whit – what
- yorlan – yellowhammer
- sang – song
- aye – always
- hoose – house
- nae – no
- noo – now
- sae – so
- frae – from
- ca' – call
- maister – master
- fareweel – farewell
- aince mair – once more
- roon – round
- gang about folk – the travelling people



Activity 1

Have you ever seen the yellow buds on broom bushes during spring? Create some flowers using tissue paper and some craft wire.



Activity 2

Draw a picture of what broom might look like during each of the four seasons.



Activity 3

This song talks about yellow on the broom appearing in spring. What is your favourite season and why?



Activity 4

This song was written about Scots gypsy-travellers who would know it was time to get on the road again when they saw the yellow on the broom. Draw a picture of a suitcase and write around it all the things you would take with you on a 6-month journey.