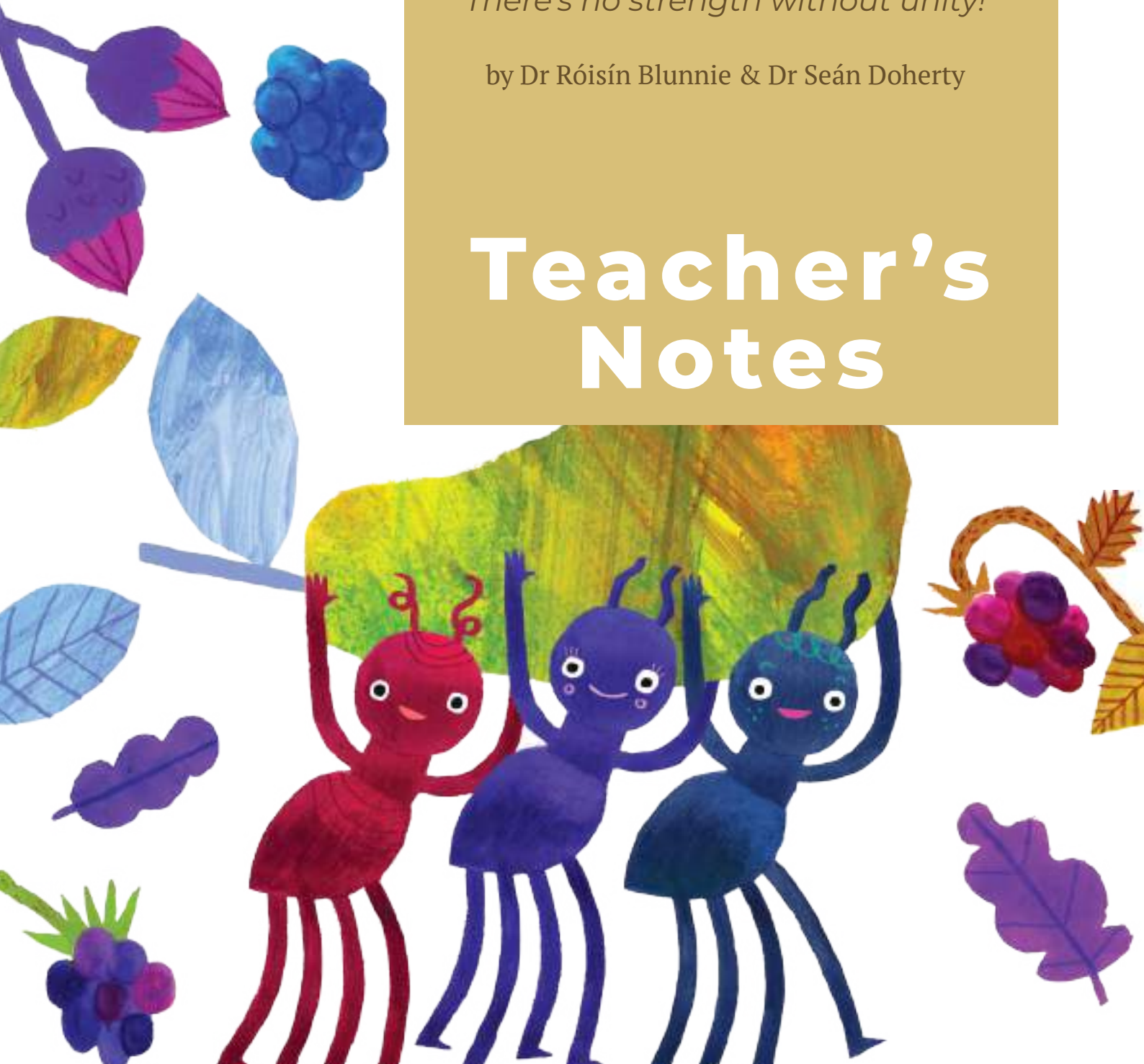


Ní Neart Go Cur Le Chéile

There's no strength without unity!

by Dr Róisín Blunnie & Dr Seán Doherty

Teacher's Notes



in partnership with

Ní neart go cur le chéile - a new song to learn and sing

Suggested teaching steps (adapt/develop to suit you and your class)

Step 1

Watch Video 1 (Introduction Video) with the class.

This video introduces the seanfhocal 'ní neart go cur le chéile' by explaining what it means and practising how to pronounce it (adapt to suit dialect if appropriate).



Discussion:

Discuss real-life meanings of 'ní neart go cur le chéile', e.g. times when we work together to make something happen, to make something work out really well - making something together / playing music together / playing sport on a team / doing a performance such as a concert or a Christmas play / lifting something heavy / tidying up together, etc. A word web may be useful for this activity.

Art:

Draw pictures or make a colourful poster to show some examples of when we can say 'ní neart go cur le chéile' – times when we work together or help each other to make something work out for the best.

Step 2

Watch Video 2 (Song Video) with the class.

This video teaches the song step-by-step using a call-and-response pattern. The children should listen when they see the bird saying 'listen' and sing when the bird says 'your turn'. Repeat the video as needed. If preferred, make the video available for children to use at home.

Actions/Dance:

Make up actions or create a dance to go with the song. Children can invite friends / family / classmates to join in, and then share ideas: perform for each other / teach each other / make a video.



Make & Do:

Make a homemade instrument such as a rice shaker, and play along while singing. To make a rice shaker, put some rice in a dry empty bottle, and shake!

Colouring:

Distribute the colouring-in page for this song for children to do in class or at home.

Step 3

Watch video 2 again with the class.

A jig enters at 2.55 in the video. Listen to the jig together. If the children play instruments, play the jig. Learn the jig together by watching video 3 (jig learning video). Then, play along with the song. Notation and note names are printed in the teaching score.

Further Learning Activities

Select from the following or create your own:

Comic strip / storyboard:

complete a comic strip / storyboard based on the seanfhocal ‘ní neart go cur le chéile’.

Music Listening and Music Theory:

the song changes to two-part singing at 2.02. Listen to the change from one part to two parts (listen from ca. 1.54), and lead the children towards perceiving and articulating what happens at 2.02 and beyond.

Ask questions such as

‘what happened?’

‘What changed?’

‘Is everyone singing together?’

‘Is everyone still singing the same thing as before?’

‘Is everyone singing at the same time?’...

listen



What happens: the music moves into two parts that are exactly the same as each other, i.e. the second part sings exactly the same as the first part, but at a different time, i.e. the second voice starts later. The musical term for this is canon. So, the later part of the song is in two-part canon (also known as a two-part round). The song returns to unison (one part) for the final ‘le chéile’.

Link to well-known canons / rounds, such as Row, Row, Row Your Boat / Frère Jacques. Using these related songs, try a singing activity to suit you and your class, e.g. sing the song in unison first; once it is very secure, carefully add a second part (perhaps the teacher adds the second part while the children sing the first part); then swap roles / divide into groups / add movement.

Music Performance:

Aside from singing with the Ní Neart Go Cur Le Chéile video, there are many ways to perform the song as a group.

If you are a musician and/or if there are confident musicians in the group, perform the song using whatever instruments are available. Notation and chords are printed in the teaching score.

If you like, try adding more parts to the singing: the canon will work many parts – keep adding and see how it goes! You can add new harmonies / descants too. Create a repeating rhythm pattern (ostinato) to clap along with the song, or to play on a percussion instrument. Create an ostinato snake by taking turns showing each person’s ostinato.

The jig near the end of the song is suitable for playing on a wide range of instruments including tin whistle, accordion, fiddle, concertina, flute, banjo, keyboard. The accompaniment is suitable for piano, guitar, bass, and percussion.



nú neart
go cur
le chéile

