

# The Heart of the Wood

## Words of songs for Primary School Choirs

### 1. Please, Granddad, please.

CHOIR

Can't get to sleep.  
We tried counting sheep.  
Please, granddad, please,  
Tell us a tale.  
It works without fail.  
Please, granddad, please!

A story that's true  
Like you used to do.  
We'll sleep so sound!  
Good times and bad,  
The life you once had  
Down underground.

Tell us about those tricks and games  
You would play down the mine,  
You and your mates with crazy names,  
When you worked down the coal mine.

Can't get to sleep.  
We tried counting sheep.  
Please, granddad, please,  
Tell us a tale.  
It works without fail.  
Please, granddad, please!

## 2. Granddad Doesn't Love us.

### CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Granddad used to spoil us,  
Pile the chips up on our plate,  
Share out sweets and jammy dodgers,  
Let us stay up extra late.

You could have a laugh with granddad;  
You could get away with stuff,  
But we only went so far:  
Because "*Enough!*" would mean "*enough!*"

We would snuggle on the sofa, watch old movies.  
He'd sing songs with us; we'd listen to his stories.  
Granddad *always* had the time for us before.  
We love him - but it's like he doesn't love us anymore.

You could tell him *anything*.  
Granddad said he'd heard it all  
But he listened all the same.  
Never made us feel small!

If the kids at school were mean,  
And we got into a fight,  
He would always take our side.  
When we were wrong, he'd put us right.

We would snuggle on the sofa, watch old movies.  
He'd sing songs with us; we'd listen to his stories.  
Granddad *always* had the time for us before.  
We love him - but it's like he doesn't love us anymore.

### 3. Hell.

#### **CHILDRENS' CHOIR** *(MALE VOICE CHOIR)*

*Hell!* **This is hell!**

**The story that our granddad didn't tell.**

*As deep as hell, as dark as hell,*

*The noise the devil makes*

*Cracking bones in hell.*

*The hurt of hell, the heat of hell,*

*The dust the devil shakes*

*From his feet in hell.*

*Hell!* **This is hell!**

**The story that our granddad didn't tell**

*The cramps of hell, the damps of hell,*

*The flickering blue flame*

*Of the lamps in hell.*

*The stench of hell, the strife in hell,*

*The number without name*

*Who died in hell.*

**The stories that our granddad didn't tell,**

## 4.The Heart of the Wood

Breath of life, our earth, our mother.  
You gave us birth  
Our mother, the Earth.  
Help us now.  
Bodies and brains,  
The blood in our veins.  
Don't fail us now.

We didn't give you  
The respect that was due,  
Darkened your skies.  
Don't turn away.  
Your children today  
Aren't so unwise.

{ **Grand** ----- **dad is clever and**  
*Woody, our granddad, clever and kind*

{ **kind**-----**used to work down the**  
*Used to work down the mine.*

{ **mine**-----**We've come back here to**  
*We've come back here to try to find*

{ **find** -----**something he left down the mine.**  
*Something he left down the coal----- mine.*

## 5. Just a bunch of kids

Just a bunch of kids, so what do we know?  
My grum-py un-cle says, "Tried all that years a-go"  
But we've got hearts and minds and im-ag-in-at-ion.  
One day we're gon-na be the next gen-er-a-tion,  
So here's some stuff we'd love to see gets done  
To make life here bet-ter for us and for eve-ry one

*The Band then play a long held note, while these words will be spoken by actors and selected students:-*

### *PAIR A*

*For a start, more zebra crossings would be cool,  
And a lollipop lady on duty outside our school.  
Dodging cars with a pram or a wheelchair sends you dizzy!  
A school bus to pick us up when our parents are busy.*

*A prescription drop-off for folk who can't get around.  
A neighbourhood medical centre would be sound,  
Or a hospital closer to home. On a quiet street,  
A pub-style hang-out where kids with problems can meet.*

### *PAIR B*

*Decent jobs! A vet's, a community public library,  
A Swap-shop. Arcades with great games. Virtual Reality.  
Coffee shops, the kind you see in other places,  
Where families and friends sit and chatter, with smiling faces.*

*A Technology Centre. Nice houses without any damp.  
Every shadowy ginnel lit-up by a shining street-lamp.  
Community police. More boots on the streets assigned.  
Activity clubs for our youth, one of every kind.*

### *PAIR C*

*Football pitches, Laser-tag, Centres with special facilities  
For groups to do music and drama with disabilities.  
Canal and river walks. Allotments. Places to have fun.  
More regular trains and busses. Ones that actually run!*

*Support for new mums and babies, Safe Parks for the small.  
Help for the poor and the homeless with nothing at all.  
I'd build a huge plant house, if it were left up to me,  
Where we'd grow all kinds of fresh food and give it for free.*

### *PAIR D*

*One thing we need is more rubbish bins. It's a disgrace,  
All those tin-cans, glass-bottles and dog-poo, that litter the place. Let's have a big massive  
clean-up: graffiti, parks, roads; the lot, And be proud as Punch of the place where to live  
Whynot?*

*Then, to celebrate, a festival: every season a treat.  
Inflatables, barbeques, parades, dancing in the street,  
Super screen cinema, sports, rides, a water fight.  
In winter singing round a firepit, all through the night.*

## **Just a bunch of kids continued**

You gave us birth, Our moth-er, the Earth. Help us now.  
Bod-ies and brains, The blood in our veins. Don't fail us now  
We did-n't give you the res-pect that was due dark-ened your  
skies. Don't turn a-way. Your child-ren to-day Are'nt so un-  
wise.

### *Short Band interlude*

This is our prom-ise To do right for you We will be brave and  
strong For all our fam-il-ies and our friends ,To-wards a bright  
fu-ture  
This is our-song. This is our song.

## **6.Please, Granddad, please.(reprise)**

### CHOIR

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Please, granddad, please!  
Granddad please!  
Granddad please!