

# CHRISTMAS SPECIAL ACTIVITY

## STRANGE TRADITIONS IN OUR COUNTRY

Caga Tió is a very strange Catalan Christmas tradition, and it is often misunderstood. So, in true Christmas spirit, do your best to write a clear explanation of what Caga Tio is:



**Caga Tió explained: Kate McKinnon's and Viggo Mortensen's version**

**Watch the videos and answer the following questions:**

1. What name does Kate McKinnon give to Caga Tió?
2. According to Kate, what do you do on Christmas Day with Caga Tió?
3. According to the song, what do you tell Caga Tió not to poop?
4. What name does Viggo Mortensen give to Caga Tió?
5. According to Viggo, which time does Caga Tio date back to?
6. What do kids do when they are given the stick?
7. Why do kids love it, according to Viggo?
8. What happens when the song is sung three times by the whole family?

## COLLOCATIONS

Listen to the video recordings again and try to link the adjectives with the nouns to build the collocations they use to describe Caga Tió.

CRAPPING	PRESENTS		
SMILEY	CALENDAR	HEFTY	SANTA
RED	UNCLE	CHRISTMAS	HERRING
ADVENT	CAP	INTERNATIONAL	TOOLS
CHRISTMAS	FACE	SALTING	TRADITION

## CURIOUS CHRISTMAS LYRICS FROM...

### Fairytale of New York (The Pogues)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j9jbdgZidu8>



- 1) Listen to the song and fill in the blanks. Try to guess what the expressions in bold letters mean (the ones in italics are slang; rude words, mainly).
- 2) Did you know the song? And the group?
- 3) Can you guess if this song has to do with Christmas traditions? Where and when is it sung?

It was Christmas Eve babe

In the **drunk tank**

An old man said to me, **won't see another one**

And then he sang a song

**The Rare Old Mountain Dew**

I \_\_\_\_\_ my face \_\_\_\_\_

And dreamed about you

\_\_\_\_\_ a lucky one

### **Came in eighteen to one**

I've got a feeling

This year's for me and you

So happy Christmas

I love you baby

I can see a better time

When all our \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

They've got **cars big as bars**

They've got **rivers of gold**

But **the wind goes right through you**

It's no place for the old

When you first took my hand

On a cold Christmas Eve

You promised me

Broadway was waiting for me

You were handsome

You were pretty

### **Queen of New York City**

When the band finished \_\_\_\_\_

They \_\_\_\_\_ for  
more

Sinatra was \_\_\_\_\_

All the drunks they were  
\_\_\_\_\_

We kissed on a corner

Then danced through the night

The boys of the **NYPD choir**

Were singing **Galway Bay**

And the bells were \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

For Christmas day

You're a **bum**

You're a **punk**

You're an **old slut on junk**

Lying there almost dead **on a drip** in  
that bed

You **scumbag**, you **maggot**

You **cheap lousy faggot**

**Happy Christmas your arse**

I pray God **it's our last**

The boys of the NYPD choir

Still \_\_\_\_\_ Galway Bay

And the bells are \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

For Christmas day

I could have been \_\_\_\_\_

Well so could \_\_\_\_\_

You \_\_\_\_\_ my dreams  
\_\_\_\_\_ me

When I first found you

I \_\_\_\_\_ them \_\_\_\_\_ me  
babe

I \_\_\_\_\_ them \_\_\_\_\_ my own

### **Can't make it all alone**

I've \_\_\_\_\_ my dreams  
\_\_\_\_\_ you

The boys of the NYPD choir

Still \_\_\_\_\_ Galway Bay

And the bells are \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ for Christmas day

## KEY

### STRANGE TRADITIONS IN OUR COUNTRY

Caga Tió is a very strange Catalan Christmas tradition, and it is often misunderstood, so in true Christmas spirit, try your best to write you a clear explanation of what Caga Tio is:



#### Caga Tió explained: Kate McKinnon's and Viggo Mortensen's version

#### Watch the videos and answer the following questions:

1. What name does Kate McKinnon give to Caga Tió?  
Poop Log of Christmas
2. According to Kate, what do you do on Christmas Day with Caga Tió?  
You take a stick and beat him and ask him to poop out presents.
3. According to the song, what do you tell Caga Tió not to poop?  
Salted herrings for they are too salty.
4. What name does Viggo Mortensen give to Caga Tió?  
The Crapping Uncle.
5. According to Viggo, which time does Caga Tio date back to?  
It's a pre-Christian tradition.
6. What do kids do when they are given the stick?  
They get to hit the thing as hard as they can and they get to sing the song "crap, uncle, crap!"
7. Why do kids love it, according to Viggo?  
Because they can swear and they can hit the stuff with the stick as hard as they want and scream and do whatever they want.
8. What happens when the song is sung three times by the whole family?  
The kids get to reach under the blanket and pull out a present.

## COLLOCATIONS

CRAPPING	UNCLE	HEFTY	TOOLS
SMILEY	FACE	CHRISTMAS	TRADITION
RED	CAP	INTERNATIONAL	SANTA
ADVENT	CALENDAR	SALTING	HERRING
CHRISTMAS	PRESENTS		

## CURIOUS CHRISTMAS LYRICS FROM...

### Fairytale of New York (The Pogues)



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It was Christmas Eve babe

In the drunk tank

An old man said to me, won't see  
another one

And then he sang a song

The Rare Old Mountain Dew

I turned my face away

And dreamed about you

Got on a lucky one

Came in eighteen to one

I've got a feeling

This year's for me and you

So happy Christmas

I love you baby

I can see a better time

When all our dreams come true

They've got cars big as bars

They've got rivers of gold

But the wind goes right through you

It's no place for the old

When you first took my hand  
On a cold Christmas Eve  
You promised me  
Broadway was waiting for me  
You were handsome  
You were pretty  
Queen of New York City  
When the band finished playing  
They howled out for more  
Sinatra was swinging  
All the drunks they were singing  
We kissed on a corner  
Then danced through the night  
The boys of the NYPD choir  
Were singing Galway Bay  
And the bells were ringing out  
For Christmas day  
You're a bum  
You're a punk  
You're an old slut on junk  
Lying there almost dead on a drip in  
that bed

You scumbag, you maggot  
You cheap lousy faggot  
Happy Christmas your arse  
I pray God it's our last  
The boys of the NYPD choir  
Still singing Galway Bay  
And the bells are ringing out  
For Christmas day  
I could have been someone  
Well so could anyone  
You took my dreams from me  
When I first found you  
I kept them with me babe  
I put them with my own  
Can't make it all alone  
I've built my dreams around you  
The boys of the NYPD choir  
Still singing Galway Bay  
And the bells are ringing out  
For Christmas day

## Vocabulary:

- drunk tank: prison
- won't see another one: it's my last (Xmas)
- The Rare Old Mountain Dew: old Irish folk song
- Came in eighteen to one: was really lucky because he bet 1 pound and won 19.
- cars big as bars: a comparison to describe limousines
- rivers of gold: a metaphor to say loads of money
- the wind goes right through you: it's a cold and aggressive society
- and weather in New York.
- Queen of New York City: the most beautiful woman in a beauty contest.
- NYPD choir: New York Police Department choir
- Galway Bay: old Irish song with strong political meaning
- *bum: really offensive word to refer to a homeless person or insult that means literally arse)*
- *punk: men being used for sex (in US prison slang)*
- *old slut on junk: slut is prostitute and junk is heroine (drug)*
- *on a drip: receiving medicine through your veins (probably refers to being drug in this case)*
- *scumbag: contemptible or detestable person*
- *maggot: an insult meaning worth less (larva, literally)*
- *cheap lousy faggot: cheap can be interpreted as mean or of little value; lousy is very poor, bad or infected with lice and faggot is an insult to homosexuals*
- *Happy Christmas your arse: I'm suffering on Christmas Eve, and have nothing to celebrate right now*
- Can't make it all alone: I can't make our dreams come true without you