

Year 5 English: The Easter Story and Narrative Perspectives

Learning objective: To analyse the key narrative elements, themes, and symbolism within the Easter story, focusing on character motivation and descriptive language.

Read the flashcard front carefully. Consider the historical and symbolic context of the term before revealing the answer. Reflect on how these elements shape the narrative arc.

What is the 'Resurrection' in the context of the Easter narrative?

The theological belief and central narrative climax describing the return to life of Jesus three days after his crucifixion, symbolising hope and new beginnings.

Explain the significance of the 'Palm Sunday' event.

The arrival of Jesus in Jerusalem where he was greeted by crowds waving palm branches, symbolising peace and royal welcome.

Define 'Sacrifice' as a thematic element in this story.

The act of giving up something highly valued—in this case, life—for the sake of others, serving as the moral catalyst for the story's resolution.

What is the symbolic meaning of an 'Empty Tomb'?

It represents the triumph over death, serving as the physical evidence that initiates the transformation of the disciples' grief into joy.

Identify the 'Last Supper' as a narrative device.

A communal meal that serves as a pivotal moment of foreshadowing, where themes of betrayal and future remembrance are established.

How does 'Gethsemane' function as a setting in the narrative?

It is a garden setting that highlights the internal conflict, vulnerability, and human emotion of the protagonist before the story's climax.

Why is the 'Crown of Thorns' used as a powerful symbol?

It is a visual metaphor for suffering and mockery, contrasting sharply with the concept of a kingly crown to highlight the theme of humility.

What is meant by the term 'Maundy' in the story?

Derived from the Latin 'mandatum', it refers to the 'new commandment' given by Jesus to his followers to love one another.

Compare and contrast the mood of 'Good Friday' with 'Easter Sunday'.

Good Friday is characterised by sombre, reflective, and sorrowful language, whereas Easter Sunday is defined by exultant, vibrant, and celebratory vocabulary.

Justify why the Easter story is considered an 'Allegory' of spring.

It mirrors the natural cycle of the seasons; just as life returns to the earth after the dormancy of winter, the narrative focuses on renewal and regeneration.

Explain the role of 'Betrayal' in the narrative arc.

The actions of Judas serve as the inciting incident that leads to the climax, creating tension and testing the loyalty of the other characters.

What might happen to the narrative's impact if the story concluded on Friday?

The story would remain a tragedy focused on loss; the inclusion of the Sunday narrative is essential to shift the genre from tragedy to one of hope and transformation.