

Reflecting on the Easter Narrative: Themes and Perspectives

Learning objective: To analyse the narrative structure, symbolism, and moral themes within the Easter story, demonstrating an understanding of how characters and events influence historical perspectives.

Read the following questions carefully. Ensure your answers are written in full, grammatically correct sentences using Standard English. Refer to your previous class discussions regarding the events of Holy Week and Easter Sunday.

This activity requires you to draw upon your prior knowledge of the Easter narrative. Think about the sequence of events from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday, considering the motivations of the individuals involved and the broader societal impact of these historical accounts.

Word bank: Resurrection · symbolism · perspective · narrative arc · metaphor · tradition · sacrifice · compassion

1. Identify two distinct emotional shifts experienced by the followers of the narrative between Friday and Sunday. Explain how these shifts influence the tone of the story. (3 marks)

2. Ellie the elephant is fascinated by history. If you were a witness to the events of the first Easter, how might your personal perspective change how you recorded the events in a diary? (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the symbolism of the empty tomb with the traditional symbols of new life associated with Easter today (e.g., eggs or flowers). (4 marks)

4. Justify why the themes of 'forgiveness' and 'sacrifice' are considered central to the moral teachings found within this narrative. (3 marks)

5. What might happen if the narrative ended on Good Friday? Explain how this would alter the message and the lasting influence of the story. (3 marks)

6. Critique the role of 'hope' in the narrative. How does this abstract concept act as a catalyst for the actions of the characters? (2 marks)

Draw: Zara the zebra loves patterns and symbolism. Draw a scene representing the concept of 'new beginnings' as depicted in the Easter story, using geometric patterns to frame the edges of your artwork to show the contrast between shadow and light.



Extension challenge: Write a short, emotive poem from the perspective of an unnamed witness to the events of Easter Sunday. Your poem should use at least three metaphors to describe the transition from sorrow to joy, and must adhere to a consistent rhythm or rhyme scheme.