



Interpreting Modern Martyrs: Josiah's perspective teacher notes

Thank you for downloading this resource. We hope that it will be a useful teaching tool in your classroom.

As we continue to grow our free catalogue of teaching resources, we'd really appreciate a few minutes of your time to let us know what you liked and what could be improved. Please complete this [five-question survey](#).

Follow-up tasks

Ask pupils to reflect independently: Think about the "stations" identified by Josiah on this "train ride" to martyrdom. Which of these are most important? Are there any "stations" (word or phrases) that you would add to this?

Ask pupils to discuss in pairs or in a small group: Josiah ends his film by asking "How are martyrs made and how are they relevant?" Discuss this question with others.

Ask pupils to write an answer to this essay question: The journey to martyrdom is the same for all martyrs. Discuss.

Ask pupils to find out more about the martyrs mentioned:

<https://www.westminster-abbey.org/about-the-abbey/history/modern-martyrs>

Ask pupils to produce their own creative response about all or one of the martyrs:

You may find it useful to share these guidelines, which were given to the pupils who created the films.

Purpose:

Your creative responses will help your peers across the UK and the world to explore the idea of Christian martyrdom and the 10 modern martyr statues at Westminster Abbey.

Content:

There are lots of options of what you could create, but it must be able to be recorded and shared. It could be: a poem; an artwork; a dance; a song; a short documentary; or something else you are thinking of and want to discuss.

Audience:

Your creative response will be used by 14- to 18-year-olds (and their teachers) in classrooms around the UK and the world.

Tone:

Your creative response should be: imaginative; clear; curious; welcoming; and accessible.

Transcript

Who is a martyr and how do you become one? For example: Martin Luther King Jr. Why is he considered a martyr? Can he really be considered one? How do you choose who and when someone becomes one? This train ride to MARTYRDOM CENTRAL presents one of the many routes to this end destination.

We will begin at INJUSTICE, a rather large city for a rather large idea. We see an issue which is unfair or unjust to a majority with a minority benefiting, for example segregation.

We arrive at our next station, which is OPINION. By having an opinion, change can begin. This nicely leads to our next station, ACTION. By taking action, change is in progression, like peaceful protests during segregation in the USA. We are now arriving at our next station. DEFIANCE. By being defiant, or boldly disobedient you are willing to make change, no matter the consequences.

Our next station is HATE TOWN. Where you are hated for your views. This takes us to our next station, DEATH CENTRAL. Someone will eventually want you dead, and nine times out of ten, dead you will be.

We are now at our penultimate stop, MARTYR WEST. You are now erected at the West Door of the Abbey, which leads to our final stop: MARTYR CENTRAL

While you stay, please think about this:
How are Martyrs made and how are they relevant?

Thank you for travelling with Abbey Services.