



Interpreting Modern Martyrs: Barney's perspective teacher notes

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Follow-up tasks

Ask pupils to reflect independently: At the end of the film, Barney asks you to think about who from the past you're inspired by and how have they changed your life today. Write down your thoughts.

Ask pupils to discuss in pairs or in a small group: The focus of Barney's film is on Janani Luwum, one of the less well-known modern martyrs, and he describes him as a hero. Discuss with others: Are all martyrs heroes – why or why not?

Ask pupils to write an answer to this essay question: Martyrs are people who fight for privileges for a minority group that others take for granted. 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

The ten modern martyrs over the west door of Westminster Abbey represent some of the greatest in history

But, what is a martyr? A martyr is someone who has been killed for in this case, their religious beliefs

But what makes a martyr? Do you have to die by choice, and why would someone kill the people we call heroes?

Janani Luwum was the archbishop of Uganda during a time of marshal law and oppression for the Ugandan people in the 1970s

The dictator at the time, Idi Amin, have strong views against all those that weren't fully ethnically Ugandan, expelling all those from neighbouring countries and the large Asian and primarily Indian community that had formed there too

In a time of great darkness for the Ugandan people, Luwum was a shining light, who was a source of hope for many, and initially worked with Amin to mitigate his ruthless ideology and its effect

However, in 1977, 6 years into Amin's rule, Luwum staged a protest with senior religious leaders at the time against Amin and his violence.

Shortly after, he was arrested and forced to confess to crimes he hadn't committed. Later on, it was claimed he was killed in a car crash, however it is widely regarded he was killed on Idi Amin's orders

His legacy is still celebrated in the country today and there is a public holiday every year on the day of his death. He truly was a hero

However, Luwum is only one of ten martyrs, and the other 9 have equally important stories to tell. Sometimes, the rights they fought for are privileges we take for granted. So, I close with these questions: Who is your inspiration of the past and how have they changed your life today? And can you think of scenarios where you've seen people fight for a privilege you thought was common for all?