



Interpreting Modern Martyrs: Anjani'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: Reflect on what you have learnt about Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Had you heard of him before? What further questions do you have about him?

Ask pupils to discuss in pairs or in a small group: Anjani explains how Dietrich Bonhoeffer was murdered and became a martyr for something he might not have done. She asks you to decide whether he would have been involved. What do you think and why?

Ask pupils to write an answer to this essay question: To what extent do you think Dietrich Bonhoeffer's murder and martyrdom was about fear of difference?

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

A 'martyr' can be defined as someone who suffers or is killed as a consequence of their religious or political beliefs and are often admired for it.

Bonhoeffer was accused and murdered for his alleged involvement in an assassination plot against Hitler - it is this anti-Nazi dissidence which led to his martyrdom.

Let's take a closer look at Bonhoeffer: Dietrich Bonhoeffer was born on the 4th of February 1906 in Wroclaw, Poland.

Bonhoeffer was a German Lutheran Pastor and founding member of the Confessing Church, which was formed in opposition to the Nazi effort to unify all Protestant churches under a single, pro-Nazi Evangelical Church.

In April 1943, Bonhoeffer was captured and arrested by the Gestapo, and sentenced to death due to alleged evidence implicating him in a plot to assassinate Hitler.

He was sent to Tegel Prison where he remained for a year and a half- during this time he acted as a counsellor and pastor to other inmates, offering guidance and comfort during such wretched times. He continued to uphold his strong Christian beliefs and was later transferred to Flossenburg Concentration Camp where he was hung and martyred, on 9th April 1945.

Our knowledge of Bonhoeffer as a pious, pacifist man causes us to question whether he would be involved with a heinous and violent assassination plot.

So, it is up to you to decide: Who was Dietrich Bonhoeffer?