



### Interpreting Modern Martyrs: Yvette and Miu Miu'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:** Yvette and Miu Miu introduced two traditional martyrs and three modern martyrs in their film. Which ones had you heard of before? What questions do you have about these different martyrs?

**Ask pupils to discuss in pairs or in a small group:** "We believe that the modern martyrs should be honoured and commemorated for their commitment to their faith in the same light as the traditional martyrs." Do you agree? Discuss with others.

**Ask pupils to write an answer to this essay question:** Learning about modern martyrs "inspires us to conduct our lives in a similar way to them." To what extent do you agree, and why?

**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.

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## Transcript

What is a martyr? By theological definition, a martyr is 'a person considered to have died because of their testimony for Jesus or their faith in Jesus.'

One of the most famous in Christian history is St George, who was martyred by decapitation, who is most famous for supposedly killing a dragon.

Another famous Christian martyr is St Catherine, who was thrown in prison for refusing to wed the emperor. The story says that she was beheaded and bled milk, not blood.

We are familiar with traditional, miraculous, often hard to believe stories of martyrs, that no doubt remain inspiring for many.

We would like to focus on the facts of the modern martyrs above the west door of Westminster Abbey.

That they might, perhaps, resonate more with us today.

After being exposed to Christianity through a Christian missionary, Esther John dedicated her life to teaching women how to read, worked in an orphanage and lived in a mission hospital.

Archbishop of San Salvador, St Oscar Romero dedicated his life to helping the poor and disadvantaged. He was unfortunately shot dead whilst celebrating mass.

Born in the Transvaal in Africa, Manche Masemola attended a Christian missionary speech. Her parents later killed her due to fear that she would leave them. Later, her parents themselves converted to Christianity.

We believe that the modern martyrs should be honoured and commemorated for their commitment to their faith in the same light as the traditional martyrs.

Their stories are often more believable and attainable, as opposed to godly miracles, therefore, hopefully inspiring us to conduct our lives in a similar way to them.

What do you think?