

Hope

A world of money, power and project is a hopeless world. We hope for some greater meaning to life. Christians find hope in God. Jesus hoped for better things embodied in selflessness and love. In our world, we encounter a more easily identifiable hopelessness – that due to poverty, loneliness, war etc. But underlying these effects is the same cause – the hopelessness of humans struggling without reference to the spiritual. The spiritual will be interpreted in a different manner according to different religions. However, the message is consistent: look to your own mind and behaviour and, with the help of your God, find true hope.

Hope is something better, more positive, which transcends our everyday worldly existence.

God is hope. Hope is proof of faith.

To help us find hope, we can spend time aside, contemplating or meditating on the spiritual or, to rephrase, empty our minds of the thoughts that connect and lock us into the world in which we live.

We reflect in silence, using our intellect to explore aspects of hope. We hear the 'still, small voice'.

We wonder at the world of nature, God's creation. God's alone. We have now ownership of it. We are set free from material desire and learn to understand the nature of God.

Let the exploration of 'hope' inspire us to at least glimpse that something: the treasure waiting to be discovered...

From the foregoing précis, pupils and teachers work together on five aspects of hope:

1. A meeting with Hope (personified). Prose based on hopelessness – hope drama; Hope's appearance; Hope's actions and attitude towards you. Your reaction. Any conclusion.
2. 'I am hope'. Poem based on hopelessness – hope drama. I see, hear, touch, believe, think, live, remember, understand, care.
3. 'Silence and hope'. . Poem based on dramatic, silent scenes – dream, graveyard, lost in forest, first step into the tunnel and accepting silence as a friend. Poem concludes connecting silence and hope.
4. 'Sun and cloud'. Poem based on dramatic personification of the nouns.
5. 'Sea and mountain'. Poem based on dramatic personification of the nouns.