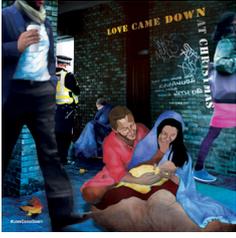


A Modern Christmas



Primary KS2

Looking for a new way to share the Christmas story with your pupils? Why not take inspiration from these posters, putting a contemporary twist on the Nativity? Use as a starter activity or as the main focus for your lesson.

These posters were created by The Salvation Army to be used as a Christmas display at its International Headquarters in London. The hope is that as people see the images they are challenged to reflect that God is with us today.

There are three images - travelling, homelessness and war-torn. For Primary-age pupils, you may wish to focus solely on travelling and homelessness.

Discussion Ideas

- Give each pair a poster to discuss. Record: *What is your favourite part, what surprised you, what questions do you want to ask, what does it tell you about Christmas?*
- Display the text on the poster. Discuss what the text could mean. *Where is love at Christmas?* Discuss the whole poster with a talk partner, then feed back their ideas to the whole class.
- Slowly reveal different parts of the image and discuss what can be seen: *Where is this? Who is here? What are they doing? Why are they there? What are they thinking?*
Reveal the baby and discuss: *Why is a baby here?*
Reveal the whole image. *What do you notice about the family? Who might they be? Why are they in a modern setting and not in Bethlehem? A family with a new baby is here - why is nobody noticing? Are we too busy in our own lives to notice the love around us? Are we so focused on ourselves that we don't see others?*
Highlight the text on the image. *'Love came down at Christmas' - what might this mean?*

Literacy Ideas

- Write thought bubbles for several people and add to the poster. Explore the idea of what would happen if people looked up and saw the family. What might change? Record on a new thought bubble and add to poster.
- What if Jesus were born today? Who would be the 'wise men'? What gifts might they bring? Who would be the 'shepherds'? Explore how the Christmas story would change if it was set in the modern day. Rewrite the story as a modern re-telling. You may wish to use the Modern Christmas Story planning sheet.
- Draw an outline of Mary or Joseph. Outside write words or phrases to describe where they are and how that situation would make one feel. On the inside describe how they are feeling as they look on the baby. Create a diary entry based on this moment. Despite being homeless, how did they feel? Even though they were crammed on a busy train, how did they feel?



- Explore how the Christmas story would change if it was set in the modern day. Write a repetitive poem or chant; each verse can be based on one part of the Christmas story. For each verse give four modern-day equivalents.

Mary travelled by **Tube**, Mary travelled by **motorbike**...

No room at the **Travelodge**, No room at the...

When performing, one half of the class can say the repetitive part and then the other half of the class finishes the line.

Drama Ideas

- Recreate a scene from a poster in a tableau like a 'mannequin challenge', focusing on the other people in the posters. *What were they doing a minute before they were in this position?* Freeze when they have recreated the poster image - you may wish to imagine where the family are. Explore what each person is thinking or feeling. Now continue for another 30 seconds - who has looked up, who has continued on their way, what has changed or stayed the same? Freeze and explore again what people might be thinking or feeling. **What happens if we start to take note of other people?**
- Discuss the poster. What would a modern version of the Nativity look like? Explore through drama.

Art Ideas

- Create your own scene from a modern Nativity using a mixture of drawings and clippings from magazines and clipart.

