

Religious Themes in Literature

Summary

The activity is a discussion about some main themes in literature that can be linked to religious questions, using cards depicting these themes.

Description of the activity

The activity involves working with the following website:

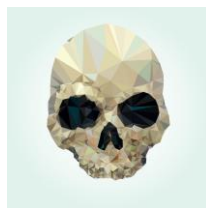
<http://www.thewritersacademy.co.uk/blog/common-literary-themes/>. The teacher can download several “cards” which represent some main themes in literature – the themes can be extended to religious themes.

The teacher can start the lesson by asking student some examples of recurrent themes in literature (for instance love, fate, family, death etc).

Then, the students are divided in small groups (between 3 and 5 people). The teacher hands out a copy of each card to each group. Here are some examples of cards which can be downloaded on the website (for each card, there is a description of the theme which can help the teacher to prepare the discussion):



“Crime doesn’t pay”



“Death”



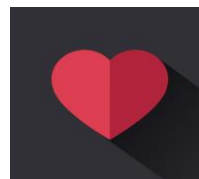
“The Individual vs. society”



“Family”



“Good vs Evil”



“Love / love conquers all”

The teacher must give out the cards without the name of the theme. The students in groups have to discuss each card. They have to state what they think the theme of the card is, and to think of examples of books they read with a similar theme. Then, they have to think of the links with religious themes. At the end, the different groups share their ideas together and the teacher can lead them in their discussion.



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Activity structure

- **Preferred premises of the activity:** the activity should be held in class or outside. The students should be in a pleasant environment where they feel safe to express their thoughts.
- **Resources needed:** the cards printed several times for each groups, some sheets of paper, pens.
- **Recommended number of people participating:** between 15 and 30 students
- **Previous knowledge of participants necessary:** some knowledge about literature and about the main themes and questions about religion.
- **Activity duration:** The activity can be held as one time event during class.

Learning Objectives

Students will think about and discuss the main themes in the books they have read. Even if the literature they are used to is not necessarily religious, they will make the link between these questions and the main questions in the different religions.

Expected Outcomes

Students will broaden their understanding of the complex questions raised by religion. They will have to think deeply about these questions in religious and non-religious literature. They will work as a group and share their personal thoughts and literary experience.

Target group

Students between 14 and 17 years of age.

Subject of the curriculum in which the activity could be implemented

Literature
Philosophy
History

Learning objects to be used with this activity

The following website where the images can be downloaded:

<http://www.thewritersacademy.co.uk/blog/common-literary-themes/>



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