

The 2008 'Art in Heaven' Competition: Themes & details

<p>Vision!</p>	<p>What is vision? Whose visions inspire me? What is my vision? How do we see visions? How do we make them happen? In this theme, pupils might think of the meaning of vision for them, or the place of vision in a religion, or a sacred story that includes a vision. The vision of Martin Luther King, or Mahatma Gandhi, or some lesser known visionary might be the stimulus, but it could be about the spiritual vision of the child too. A written reflection on visions in life plus a visionary image will be a winning combination.</p>
<p>A Fairer World</p>	<p>This theme is about how religions seek justice. Pupils might show a faith based charity in action: Islamic Relief, Christian Aid or one of many others. Or they might give an artistic reflection on their own hopes for 'making poverty history' or 'seeing justice for all people'. Good work will express clearly a link between faith and action, between the teaching of sacred texts and a modern problem, or between prayer for peace and action for peace.</p>
<p>Spiritual Stories</p>	<p>In this theme, any faith story being studied in RE can be explored or analysed by pupils, young and old, who express their own ideas and insights into the story. They might ask 'what makes this story spiritual?' or 'What's the spiritual point of this story?' or 'What spiritual impact does this story have today?' Some will respond to Jacob, the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), the Gurus, the stories of Jesus or the Buddha. Others will make spiritual links to the Good Samaritan, Harry Potter or the life of a Nobel Prize winner. A profound image, with a clear explanation will go far!</p>
<p>Giving Thanks</p>	<p>Saying "thank you" matters! In this theme, pupils are invited to express their responses to the theme of thankfulness. An attitude of gratitude makes life better! Should we all say "thank you" more often? Some people thank God, others thank their parents, or friends, some are grateful for love, the world, the gift of life or the little things that make the heart sing. What makes you thankful? How is the thanks expressed? Tell us what your image means too.</p>
<p>Searching for God</p>	<p>Where do you look for an invisible being? How do you search for what cannot be proved? In this theme, pupils are invited to think about how people look for God. Some stories from faith communities answer this question. Many pupils will have their own idea. Agnostics and atheists may say 'we don't know' or 'nowhere'. Winning work in this area will mix the idea of searching with the different possible ways of finding God. Talking about God ~ or to God ~ doubt, theology, seeking, sensing or listening to God creatively lead to the answers of one or more religions.</p>

For 2008, there are special categories for digital video and for group entries. We especially welcome entries from 16-19 students in FE colleges and sixth forms

Send your entries to:

**Art in Heaven,
NATRE
1020 Bristol Road,
Selly Oak
Birmingham
B29 6LB.**

Thanks to our sponsors, the Westhill Trust and Christian Aid for their generous support.

We are pleased to receive entries via email - digital photography of 3D entries has been popular in previous competitions.

Send to:
retoday@retoday.org.uk

The Web gallery for the previous competitions is at:
<http://www.natre.org.uk/spiritedarts>

We recommend pupils look at the gallery to see what inspires them – reviewing the gallery and choosing their own favourites is a great homework.

Making your entries:

- The competition is **open to all** pupils aged 5-19.
- **Pupils should write** briefly about their art work. Some suggested prompts for this follow below, but free writing is encouraged.
- Entries should be **not larger than A3** in size. Good digital photos of 3-D entries are welcome.
- Schools may send **no more than 8 entries** to the national competition. School based or local judging can take place before these are sent.
- No entries will be awarded prizes unless they arrive at NATRE on or before **31st July 2008**.
- All entries must have the **pupils' name, age, school address** and email address clearly marked on them (on the back is fine)
- FE and other **16-19 entries** are especially encouraged.
- Entries via **ICT**, digital video and other multimedia approaches, and group entries, are encouraged ~ special mention will be made on the website of the best of these.
- Judges have often awarded commendations and prizes to pupils from **SEN settings**.
- Entries become the property of NATRE the National Association for Teachers of RE. They may be used in web and other **publishing**.
- Winning and commended entries will be added to **the Art in Heaven web gallery**.

Prompts for pupils' writing

(adapt freely for different age groups and in any way suitable):

The theme of my art work is...

The title I've chosen is...

This picture is all about...

This is a spiritual picture because...

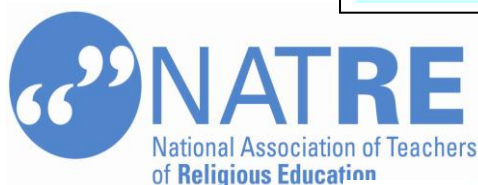
I've tried to show my thoughts / ideas / feelings by...

To make the image, I used...

I'm proud of my work because...

The main point of the image is...

I've thought a lot about theme, and I would like to say...



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