

Grandad's Bible

Note: any activities involving photographing pupils must have parental permission.

Introduction

Introduce the idea that it isn't only people that have birthdays. Discuss how we celebrate. You may wish to bring in some birthday balloons, cards and related items. Explain that this year is the 400th birthday of a very, very important book called the King James Bible. This is the Bible Grandad Joe uses.

If you have not introduced Grandad Joe, use the presentation *Meet the Curtis family* here. Explain that hundreds of years ago, King James asked a group of very clever people to make a Bible for all the churches in the country. It is called The King James Bible. Because the Bible is the very important (sacred) book of the Christians the King wanted the cleverest people in the kingdom to work on it. They were translating it into English so everyone in England could understand it. About 50 people worked for over five years and most did not get any money for their work. They did it because they thought it was important.



Select from the following activities:

1. Grandad's Bible

Look at the presentation *Grandad's Bible: Psalm 23*. Explain this psalm (poem or song) is from Grandad Joe's Bible (The King James Bible). This is his favourite bit of the Bible. Explain that the King James Bible uses an old form of English because it was written a long time ago but it is very beautiful English, which is why Grandad Joe likes it.

2. Exploring Psalm 23:1-2

Look at the presentation *Grandad's Bible: Psalm 23*.

The LORD is my shepherd; *I shall not want*.
He *maketh* me to lie down in green *pastures*:
he *leadeth* me beside the still waters.

- Read it out loud.
- What do pupils notice about this?
- Which words do they know?

- Which words are new to them?
- Ask pupils to find words that sound different or unusual. Roll over them to find what they mean.
- Explain what a shepherd is and any unusual words.

LORD is another word for God.

'*I shall not want*' means 'I will have everything I need'

Maketh means makes.

Leadeth means leads.

Pastures is the old word for green fields.

The next slide shows the same text in Eva and Ben's Bible. Explain that they are saying the same thing in different words.

3. Explore the images in the psalm

The psalm says that God (the Lord) is caring and looks after people like a shepherd who looks after his sheep.

He leads them to green grass so that they can eat and lie down. He leads them to quiet waters so that they can drink. These words help Christians to think of God as caring and protecting.

4. Art with text

Pupils can create pictures of these verses and place some of the words around the picture. Words can be written by hand or on the computer. Pupils can add their responses to the Psalm. What did they like about it? What was hard? What was interesting?

5. Best words

Because the Bible is the very important (sacred) book of the Christians, the translators of the King James Bible used their best words for it. Pupils can make a card for someone and write a message to show their appreciation. They can use their 'best words' for this. If we use our best words for people who are important to us, imagine how carefully people chose words when they were talking about God.

Reflection

Play some quiet music. Think about resting in a green field and having a cool drink with someone watching to make sure you are safe. If appropriate, listen to the words of Grandad's Bible again.

