



Character on the wall

Esau sells his birthright: Genesis 25.27–34

Samson and Delilah: Judges 16.1–31

Mary Magdalene at the tomb: John 20.11–18

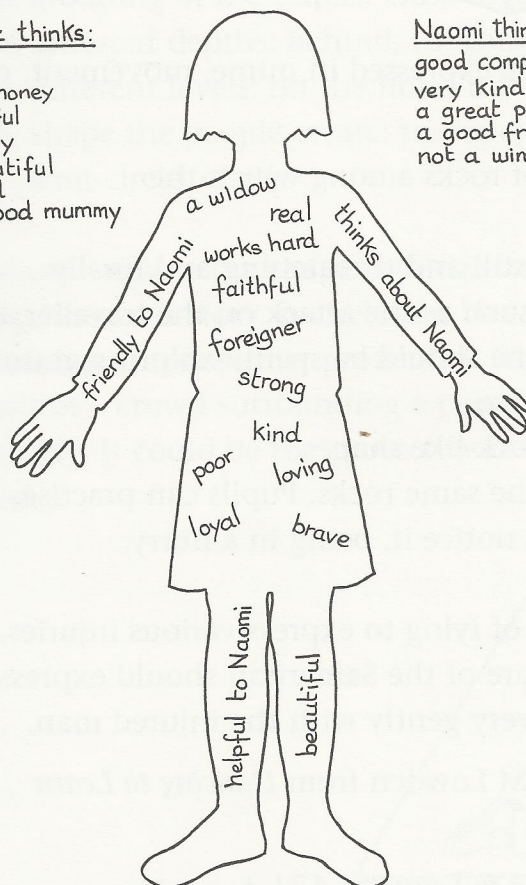
Description of the activity

This activity involves reading a story, then drawing round a pupil on a large sheet of paper. The pupils decide which character from their story they want the paper character to be. Once this is decided, they give it a name such as “Samson” or “Mary”. The pupils find out as much as they can about that character from the story: how they felt, what they looked like, what their role was, and so forth. The character is fixed to the wall and the pupil’s findings are written inside. Every time a pupil discovers something or has an idea about the person, they write it on the paper character. Outside the character can be written the influences and pressures on them and other people’s expectations of them. When the character has been thoroughly explored, the pupils re-enact the story. (For details of this, see page 98.) After enacting it, they add anything else they discovered about the character through their drama.

An example

Boaz thinks:

nice
no money
helpful
lovely
beautiful
Kind
a good mummy



Naomi thinks:

good company
very kind
a great person
a good friend
not a wimp

“Ruth” by Year 3 pupils of St Peter’s Church of England School, Cannock

Biblical application

The paper characters can be of biblical people such as Mary Magdalene or Esau. Time should be taken to assess the person depicted, and the resulting “character on the wall” should reflect the type of person they were, what was happening to them, or how they felt. Once the drama has been performed, pupils can reflect on what they learned through the drama, and whether they can add anything to their paper character as a result.