

Engagement, Spirituality, Creativity: Quality RE for everyone

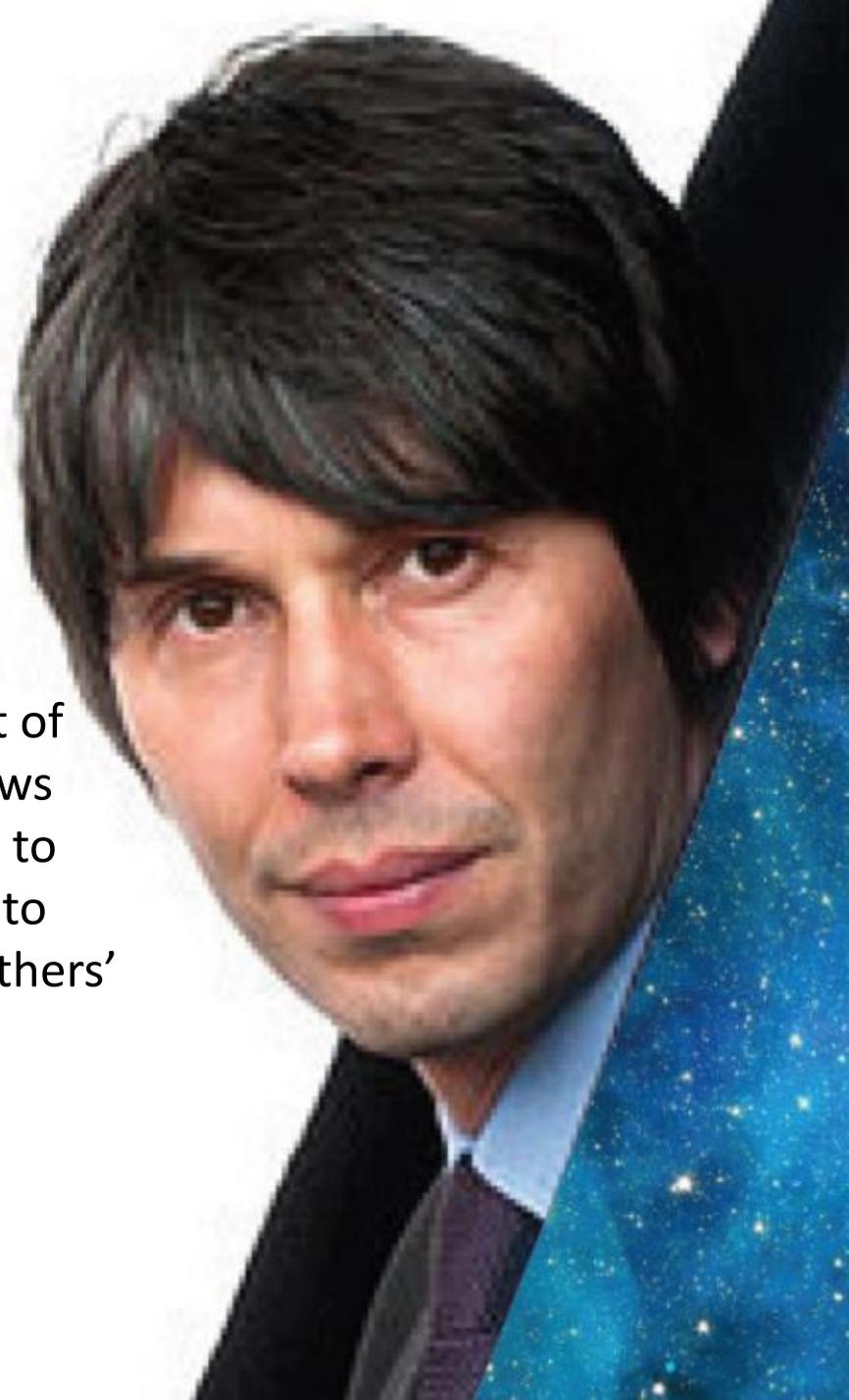
Lat Blaylock

Two paths to the truth?

Brian Cox's interview in RE Today magazine, 2018.

NBRIA 14YO Outcomes:

- Present an argument for a particular point of view, showing an awareness of different views
- Compare their own and others' responses to questions of meaning and purpose, leading to reasonable explanations of their own and others' views, in the light of religious teaching.





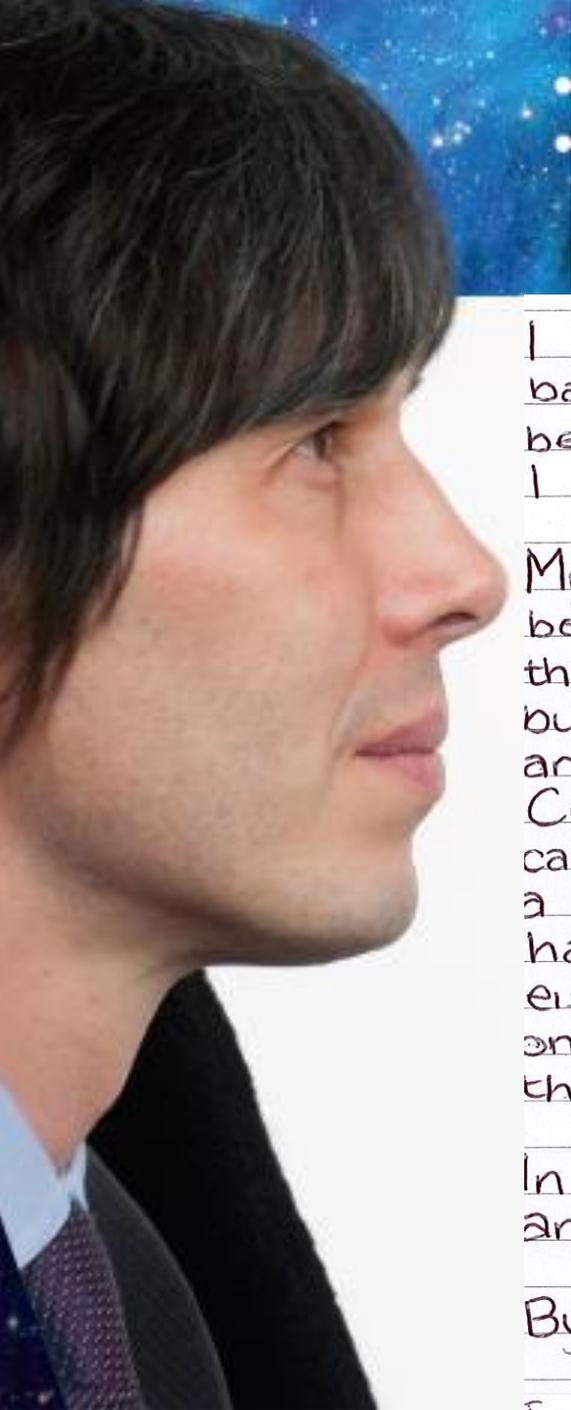
Professor Brian Cox of the University of Manchester is a famous and brilliant scientist

- Read his article from RE Today, and consider what you can learn from his views about religion and science

Can people find the truth about life, the universe and everything through religion? Through science?

- "I don't class myself as an atheist – I hate the label, partly because of what I've just said – I don't like the ghettoisation of thought and worldview, I think it's entirely toxic."





I have been brought up as a Catholic. I have been baptised, done my Holy Communion and I have been confirmed. However, that does not mean I reject the path of Science.

My path to truth is Science, however I do believe that God was involved. My belief is that Earth was created by the Big Bang; but God caused the Big Bang because no one and nothing else is as omnipotent as God. Creation ex Nihilo is something only God is capable of. This links to the Goldilocks theory, a theory about how the Big Bang had to happen at the exact ~~at~~ right moment, or else it wouldn't have worked. I believe that only God could be powerful enough to make the Big Bang happen at the right moment.

In conclusion, my path to truth is both faith and Science.

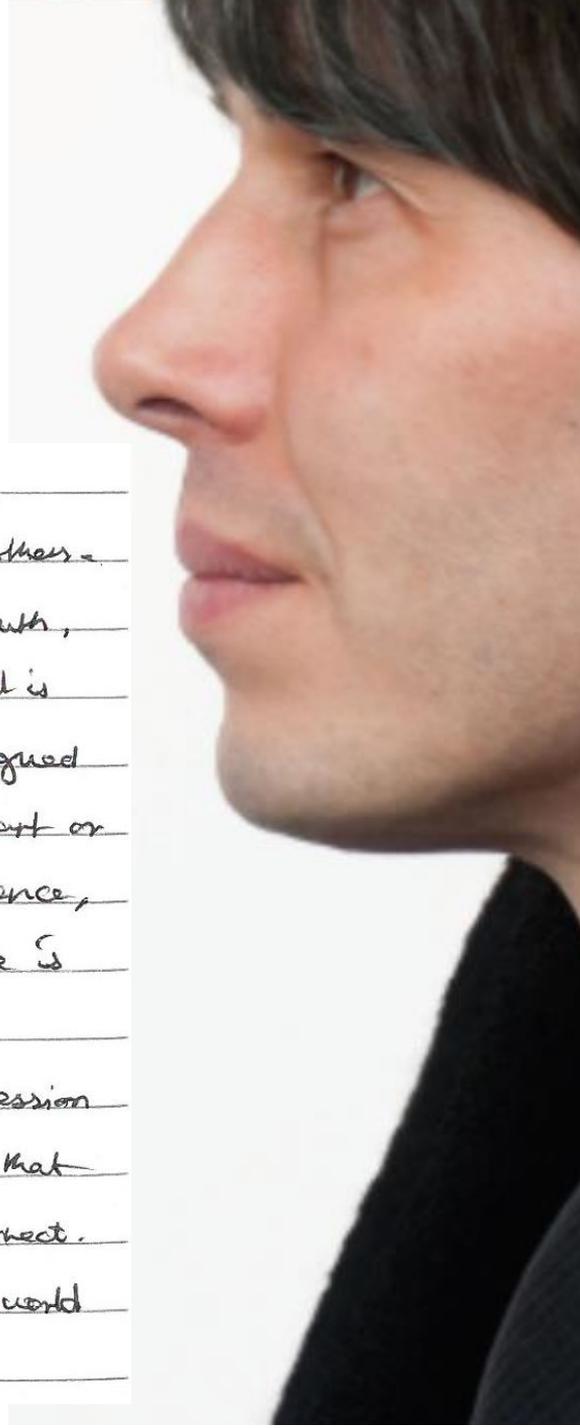
By Mia Oakley and Amelia Jones



Which 'path of truth' do you follow - science, faith, or another ~~faith~~ path?

I believe that both science and faith are merged on the same path, and are both necessary to reach an ultimate conclusion on the world's mysteries. By using and understanding both we can understand the world more clearly without having to rely ~~solely~~ solely on one source of wisdom. Although fundamental Catholics strictly believe that the story of Genesis is literal I do not share these beliefs and instead follow the beliefs of liberal Christians. I believe that God led to the big bang which caused the creation of the universe so both science and faith contributed to it. Just like Professor Brian Cox I believe we should be open to all ideas and not disregard any views, even if they contradict our own. Instead, everyone should voice their opinions and work together with those whose beliefs are different and figure out a final conclusion based on these theories. Because we haven't found the answer yet it is more logical to all work together instead of ~~of~~ distancing ourselves from the true answer by arguing with each other.

^{science has no consideration for ultimate purposes}
I do not think science has replaced religion in our quest for truth because, even though science answers many questions, religion still answers the others. Science is not the only source of truth. Science is based on rational truth, and ~~some~~ ^{some} argue that anything that is not based on rational truth, and is not based on empirical evidence is wrong, but that is correct. ~~The~~ As argued by John Lennox, when enjoy a piece of literature, a piece of art or music, it is not "rational" since it cannot be explained by science, but does that make it wrong or non-existence? It does not. If there is no empirical evidence, that does not mean that it should be disregarded completely. An alternative view is that the progression of science will allow us to answer the unanswered questions that religion forces us to accept ignorance. However, this is incorrect. In fact, Islam encourages the gain of knowledge. We live in world we both science and religion exist.





I agree with most of what Brian Cox says and I think that his principle of tolerance of different views and ideas of collaboration between them are important. While I do not believe in God I am open to others belief and am aware that God is a possibility.

The idea that science does not disprove God but could work with religion is an interesting one. If we use both we may be able to find a deeper meaning and answer more questions together. While it may be argued that science often disproves religion and that as we understand more through the development of science religion offers less believable arguments, it may also be said that it is perhaps other factors such as how literally we take religion or what limits we place upon it that can be questioned.

I also found Cox's ideas regarding the concept of wonder interesting. He states 'the initial act of being interested and noticing something that's worth exploring is what I would define as wonder.' He says that responses to this can take many forms whether that is art or music or theology or philosophy. He says that although science provides understanding of certain things these also exist. I believe the responses are very important as well as the scientific explanation, However I do not think we can really define wonder as it varies from person to person.

Georges LeMaitre:

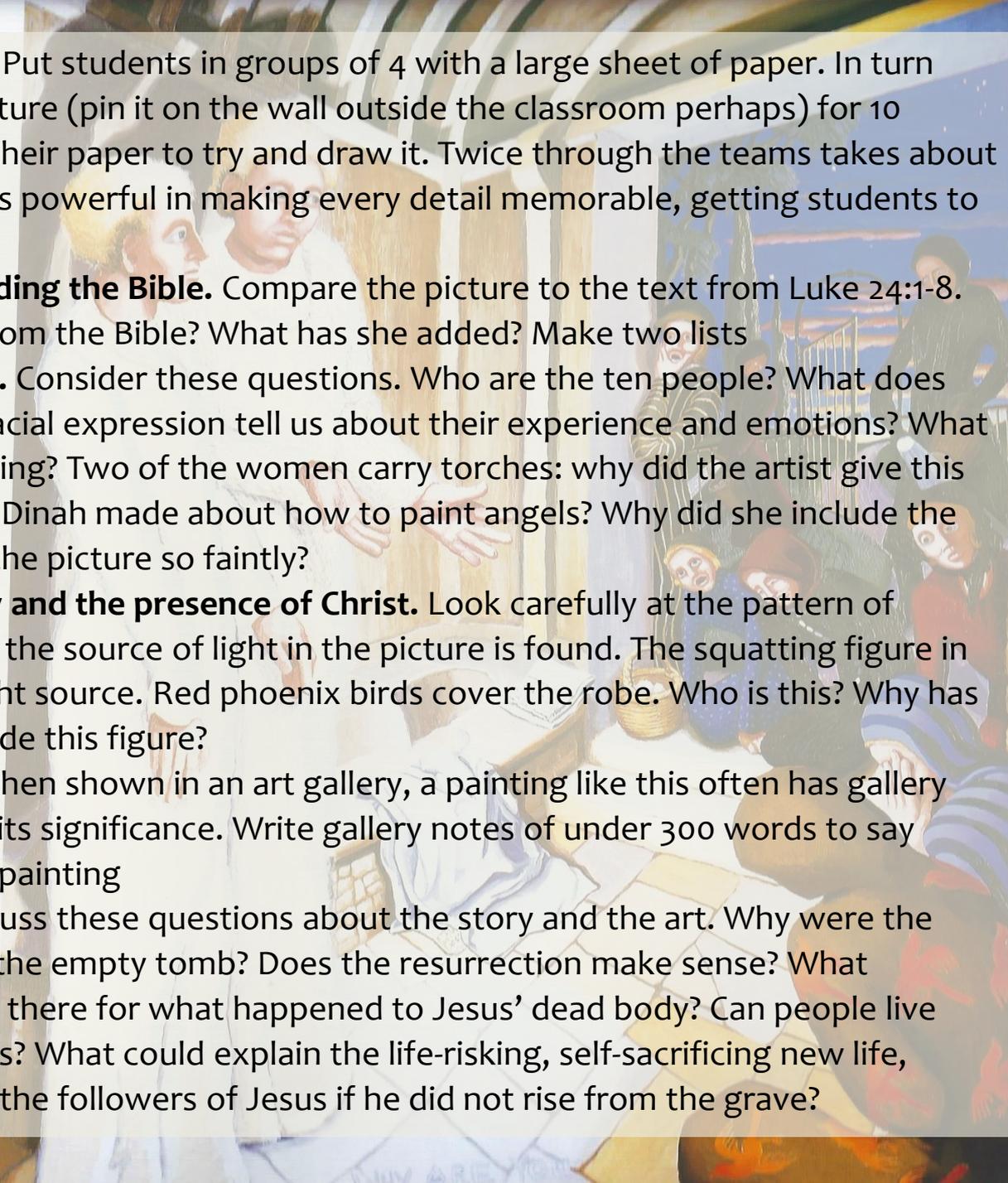
“I was [always] interested in truth from the point of view of salvation just as much as in truth from the point of view of scientific certainty. It appeared to me that there were two paths to truth, and I decided to follow both of them. We want a ‘fireworks’ theory of evolution. The last two thousand million years are slow evolution: they are the smoke and ashes of bright but very rapid fireworks. The ‘Big Bang’ theory leaves the materialist free to deny any transcendental Being. For the believer, it removes any attempt to familiarity with God... it is consonant with the wording of Isaiah speaking of the “Hidden God”; hidden even in the beginning of the universe... there is no conflict between science and religion.”

RE Today
Science and Belief
Prof Russell Stannard
12 videos / free book



Art of Resurrection
Dinah Roe Kendall

With a partner – one of you looks, the other closes eyes. The looker tells the eye-closer what to draw to copy the image.

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- **Picturing from memory.** Put students in groups of 4 with a large sheet of paper. In turn they come to see the picture (pin it on the wall outside the classroom perhaps) for 10 seconds, then return to their paper to try and draw it. Twice through the teams takes about 10 minutes. This activity is powerful in making every detail memorable, getting students to look really carefully.
 - **Reading the picture, reading the Bible.** Compare the picture to the text from Luke 24:1-8. What did the artist get from the Bible? What has she added? Make two lists
 - **Reflecting on the details.** Consider these questions. Who are the ten people? What does their body language or facial expression tell us about their experience and emotions? What might they each be thinking? Two of the women carry torches: why did the artist give this detail? What choices has Dinah made about how to paint angels? Why did she include the words at the bottom of the picture so faintly?
 - **Examining light, shadow and the presence of Christ.** Look carefully at the pattern of shadows, and see where the source of light in the picture is found. The squatting figure in the brown robe is the light source. Red phoenix birds cover the robe. Who is this? Why has the artist chosen to include this figure?
 - **Writing Gallery Notes:** when shown in an art gallery, a painting like this often has gallery notes with it, to explore its significance. Write gallery notes of under 300 words to say what matters about this painting
 - **Getting theological.** Discuss these questions about the story and the art. Why were the women first to discover the empty tomb? Does the resurrection make sense? What different possibilities are there for what happened to Jesus' dead body? Can people live after death? In what ways? What could explain the life-risking, self-sacrificing new life, courage and strength of the followers of Jesus if he did not rise from the grave?





The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse: Plague / War / Famine / Death





8. The imagery of evil:
this artist has...

3. We noticed some things
the artist did well...

9. Using the bible. This
artist has...

4. We're not sure abo

2. We would call this picture...

...because...

10. The interpretation
the artist gives of
Revelation 6 is...



7. We want to ask
some questions...

5. We realised th

1. We noticed...

6. It made us think more about...



Albrecht Durer
Four Horsemen

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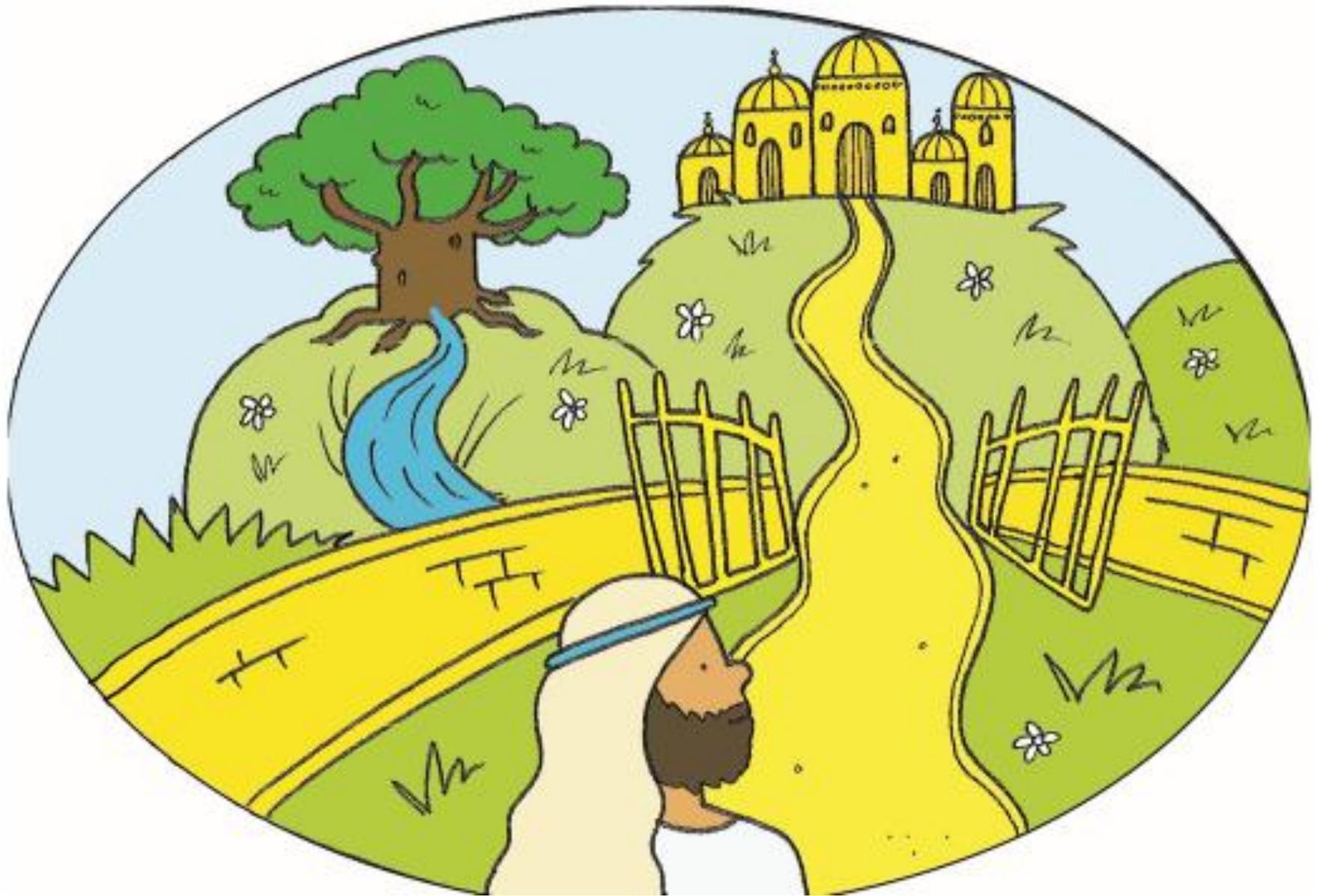
5. We realised that...

1. We noticed...

6. It made us think more about...



5 things we noticed and 5 things we thought...



Imagining a perfect future for the place where you live.

Saint John wrote this in the Bible.

“I saw a vision

I saw a vision of the future

I saw the new Jerusalem coming down to Earth from Heaven,

Pure like a diamond, clear like a crystal

Gates of gold, open to all

I saw the River of Life flowing out of the city

And in the centre of the city I saw the Tree of Life

And every leaf on the tree was for the healing of the nations.

There was no crying there. Every tear was wiped away.”

(Simplified from Revelation 20-22)

Try reading this aloud in some different styles: dreamy and peaceful? Loud and passionate? Precise and sharp?
Which seems to fit the words best?

Look at the image in the drawing of Saint John's vision. He imagines the city he lived in – Jerusalem – turned into something perfect. Like most cities, in reality it was a stinky, dirty overcrowded and dangerous place.

Imagine your city, town or village, turned perfect. What would it be like?

Write your own vision of the 'Perfect Town' for where you live.

What would it look like?

What would it be made of?

What would it be similar to?

Would it be like the New Jerusalem?

What would grow there?

What would flow there?





My town turned perfect

I saw a vision

I saw the new Liverpool

It was like a whole new world

It was as pure as a crystal

It was a perfect town

The entrance was a silver gate with green ivy.

And flowing from it was the merseyside river
as clear as the water we drink.

It is full of exotic fish and dolphins that
would welcome you.

In the middle was a fountain that the
injured could drink from and be healed. It
was protected by a phoenix that wiped away
tears from the sad.

On the grass grew the tree of life, the apples
are so sweet they make you smile.

And every leaf is filled with laughter and with
one touch of the hand your anger turns to
joy.

There is no poverty

There is no pollution

There is no dent, cracks or damage on
anything man-made or not

And all the people are thankful.

By Elizabeth Craig-Tyler

**11 year old Elizabeth
wrote this last term.
Inspired?**



"YOU'RE GOING BACK AS A MAYFLY
"HAVE A NICE DAY!"