

Art: KS2

Imagery and Symbolism

Onsite Activity: Teacher Notes



Lye Cemetery contains a number of different styles of headstone. This activity will encourage pupils to explore the hidden meanings behind the stones and to devise their own hidden messages.

Curriculum Links:

Art & Design – exploring and recording ideas, evaluating creative works, historical and cultural development of art, keeping sketchbooks

History – Local History Study, cultural and historical beliefs

Science – Observing, identifying and classifying materials and their uses

Previsit Work & Suggested prior knowledge: Explore the use of sculpture and statuary over time. Look at examples of statues from antiquity, grave markers, war memorials. How do sculptors get their messages across? What materials do they use and why?

Activity Objective:

To explore and observe imagery and symbolism and to record through drawing

Key Vocabulary:

Gravestone, headstone, urn, column, angel, imagery, symbols, interpret

Introduction: Explain that graves can be decorated with images, put there by the artist to put across a certain feeling or idea.

Main Task: Using the **Imagery and Symbolism Pupil Enquiry** sheet walk around the graveyard to see how many types of symbol you can find. Ask children to sketch their favourites and to share what they think the meanings could be. Which ones did they like best? How did the images make them feel? Use the **Imagery and Symbolism Pupil Sheet** to compare your meanings.

Plenary: Visit the grave of Thomas Rhodes. What does his headstone tell you about his life?

Suggested Follow up and Extension Activities:

Maths – complete a tally sheet for the different types of graves found. Use the **LWCC Tally Sheet** to help you.

Art & Design – Find out more about the language of flowers and design a card or statue to reflect a particular emotion ie: love, loss, friendship. See the **Language of Flowers Sheet** to help you.

History – Find out more about the lives and achievements of some of the people in the cemetery as part of an indepth Local History Study. Can their achievements still be seen in Lye and Wollescote today? Check out our **History Section** on this site for further information.

Materials required:

Clipboards, sketchbooks, pencils, charcoal, **Imagery and Symbolism** sheet

Useful websites:

www.britishmuseum.org - sculpture galleries

www.britannica.com - statues, symbols and meaning

www.thelanguageofflowers.com - flowers and meaning