

Dear Teacher,

These worksheets are designed to help you to follow up the GenR8 presentation, 'The Gift', by suggesting activities linked to the different items.

Most of the activities are suitable for all ages with little adaptation, but the 'Christmas in my house' quiz (no.2) is aimed at upper KS2. Although the approach is light-hearted, I hope that some reflective discussion about what is important to people at Christmas time may ensue.

'Unpack Christmas' (no.4) provides an opportunity to do a bit of musical follow-up at KS2, and could be from a Christian perspective or not, which in itself can produce some interesting discussion about what Christians believe.

'Well, what do you know about Christmas?' (no.5) is designed to show that many of our ideas about Christmas are based in tradition, and are not things that are recorded in scripture. The task of sorting out the answers from the Bible could be a useful upper KS2 challenge, although you may need to help the children to find the Gospels of Matthew (chapters 1 and 2) and Luke (chapters 1 and 2).

'A band of angels' (no. 6) is a lovely activity at any age, but particularly for Key Stage 1 children. *There is no personal belief* implied in the task, and indeed this could be a useful art lesson, based as it is in the variety of fine art images of angels. It is important, however, if this is to be RE, that children are asked *why* they have shown their own particular angel in this way, and to record their answers.

**There is even a fantastic GenR8 Design-an-angel competition to enter!**

Just as the questions in the excellent new RE Agreed Syllabus for Cambridgeshire provoke a reflective response, so the questions in the material here will particularly support Attainment Target 2.

Any feedback is always very helpful and much appreciated.

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Penny Kite, Christmas 2005

Design-an-angel



A large, empty rectangular box with a double-line border, intended for drawing an angel.

What do *you* think an angel might look like? Draw your idea above and you could win a special prize from GenR8! WRITE YOUR NAME, AGE AND SCHOOL ON THE BACK and send your entry by 4th January 2006 to ~  
**GenR8 Angel Competition, 14, Rampton Road, Cottenham, Cambridge CB4 8UL. Winners notified by 1.2.06**

## Reflect upon 'The Gift' with GenR8

### **1. Introduction: action words.**

Advent is the time when Christians think about the coming of Jesus, and get ready to welcome him again. What sort of actions do we perform when we are getting ready for someone coming to stay in our house?



### **2. Christmas in my house quiz: strictly for fun!**

Your Great Aunt Gertrude gives you a pair of florescent green socks with glow-in-the-dark orange santas, to wear to the school disco. Do you

- a) say 'Wow, thanks!' and chuck them in the bin?
- b) say 'Wow, thanks!' and chuck them in the drawer with the other 8 pairs from previous years?
- c) say 'Wow, thanks!' and wear them to the disco, taking Great Aunt Gertrude with you, as few of your mates have such a cool relative?

Your Granny's dog eats your best present, wrapper and all. Do you

- a) try to sell the dog on eBay?
- b) eat all the dog's presents?
- c) burst into tears and throw a professional wobbly?

Your Mum says that Christmas is the season for giving, so you've got to give a hand with the cleaning! Do you

- a) have an allergic reaction to the furniture polish?
- b) tidy the DVD collection whilst managing to watch the latest episode of the Simpsons?
- c) have a massive sulk, lasting up 'til Christmas eve?

You see Father Christmas walking down a street. Do you

- a) demand as many presents as you can think of, or you'll pull his beard?
- b) ask if you can drive the sleigh?
- c) congratulate him on doing such a wonderful job each Christmas?

You are forced to go Christmas shopping with your parents! Do you

- a) spend your pocket money on presents for your family that you want to play with later?
- b) conveniently get lost?
- c) slip all the presents you'd like into your parents' trolley when they're not looking?

You all attend church on Christmas Day. Do you

- a) go in your roller blades and reindeer antlers to look cool?

- b) go in your roller blades and reindeer antlers and persuade your parents to do the same?
- c) go in your roller blades and reindeer antlers and enjoy the special Christmas service?

Christmas Day is over for another year. Do you lie in bed and

- a) wish you had been given more stuff?
- b) wish you had given more stuff to other people?
- c) think what a lovely day it has been?
- d) think about the real meaning of Christmas?

What is the best present that you have ever been given, and why?

### 3. The gift: making a present

Take a little box (Oxo cube ones are excellent) and take it apart carefully. Turn it inside out and either ask your teacher to spray it gold or silver, or stick pieces of beautiful paper on the plain side. Re-glue the box and decorate it with tiny sequins and glitter. Wrap up a coin of chocolate money in tissue and place it inside your box. Give the box to someone special and explain to them the story of the wrapping and the present.



### 4. Unpack Christmas: make a song!

This song is in the format of 'The Twelve Days of Christmas', and has lots of gaps for you to fill in.

On the first day of Christmas, my brother gave to me  
A snowman shining brightly.

On the second day of Christmas, my sister gave to me  
Two purple baubles  
And a snowman shining brightly.

On the third day of Christmas my Granny gave to me  
Three mince pies  
Two purple baubles  
And a snowman shining brightly.

On the fourth day of Christmas ...

You can write this song from a Christian point of view, or not ~ it's up to you!



## 5. Well, what do you know about Christmas?

According to the Bible,

- Who was Jesus' father?
- On what animal did Mary ride to Bethlehem?
- What did the shepherds follow to Bethlehem?
- Which shepherd took the lamb to give to the baby?
- How many Wise Men came to visit Jesus?



You could try and find out the answers from the Bible.

You'll need to be able to look up (use the Contents page)

the Gospel of Matthew (chapters 1 and 2) and the Gospel of Luke (chapters 1 and 2).

Alternatively, the answers are at the end of the sheet!



## 6. A band of angels: design one!

Lots of people have painted angels over many centuries and you may have seen some famous paintings, like those by Raphael, Rossetti, El Greco or Barocci. Ask your teacher to get up some images on the interactive whiteboard for you to see and compare. There will also be some in books, and don't forget that they will not all be Christian images; other faiths also have a belief in angels.

What do *you* think an angel might look like? This does not mean that you do or do not believe in angels, it is a question of showing what *could* be.

Your teacher may wish to restrict the medium that you use, and the size of paper, but you can collect lots of different images from Christmas cards and compare them before you start to draw your own design. Underneath your picture, write down (or ask someone to record) why you have designed your angel like this.

## 8. Prayer

Make a list of all the presents you want for Christmas, and of all the things you would like to do, and of all the food you had to eat! What a long list! Now go through the list and cross off all the things that Jesus did **not** have when he came to earth! What's left? Does that make us think about our lives?

Listen to some quiet music whilst you make a response.



Answers to quiz: a) God b) no mention c) no mention d) no mention e) more than one (wise *men* we tend to assume there were three because three gifts are mentioned) Check it out in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke (it's not mentioned in the others).