



R.E.: How do people express their beliefs and identity?

Key Vocabulary

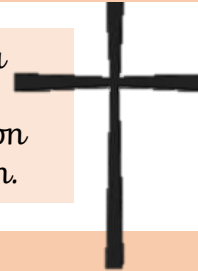
Symbolism	Symbolism in literature is a tool of figurative language where an image, object, idea or symbol is used to represent something other than its literal meaning.
Saviour	When Christians refer to Jesus as the Saviour, they are referring to the belief that he gave up his own life to save humans from their sins.
Christianity	Christianity is a religion that is based on the Bible as sacred scripture and professed by Eastern, Roman Catholic, and Protestant bodies.
Life Journey	A metaphor that compares life to a journey that involves challenges, lessons, joys, and purpose.
Humanity	The quality of being human, or the qualities characteristic of people.
Respectful	Showing politeness.
Crucifixion	An act of killing someone by nailing or tying his or her hands and feet to a cross.

Art, music and literature are important forms of expression for many people. Whether they are religious or not, many people believe that human beings have a **spiritual existence**.

General Knowledge

Throughout history, people have used art, music and literature to express their religious beliefs, and to help them to focus on practices such as prayer and worship. Beautiful words, images and objects have played a big part in many world religions, but there are some very different ideas about how they should be used.

For Christians, the cross is a sign of hope because it symbolises Jesus' resurrection after his death by crucifixion.



Jesus as Saviour

Jesus' death and resurrection proves to Christians that he is the Saviour that God promised and the path to **salvation**. Through Christ's death on the cross, Christians are saved from eternal damnation and are given the hope of salvation. Through his death and resurrection, Jesus **atoned** for the sins of humanity, allowing them to be **reconciled** with God.

Christianity teaches that Christ is the only way to salvation, and that salvation will be for those who believe, as well as those who do not believe.

The people of El Salvador are largely Roman Catholic Christians. It is a relatively poor country whose people have suffered many conflicts in recent times. Christian bishops, priests and nuns have even lost their lives standing up for the poorest people in El Salvador, but the people have faith that the future will be more just and peaceful.

The artists believe that the cross is a sign of hope even in the middle of terrible situation.



For Salvadorans, images of the sun, flowers, animals, men, women and children, doves, angels, homes represent reminders of the good things in life.

