

Assembly notes on Mothers

Intro – With Mother’s Day on Sunday we look at how mothers have are represented across different cultures.

Slide two – What is this picture about?

- It shows an image of three pregnant women in India. One notable aspect of the photograph is that their faces are cut off, which focuses attention on their pregnant bellies.
- Over the centuries people have had respect for pregnant women. Nowadays that still exists. Think about how someone might offer a pregnant woman a seat on a train or bus.
- We also have certain phrases we associate with pregnancy. Often women are described as having a “glow”.

Slide three – What makes somebody a mother

- *To mother* is a verb meaning, *to give birth to*
- A mother can also be someone who did not give birth to a child but brings them up as though she did.
- Other definitions of a mother is someone who offers nurture and care for a child, looks after them and brings them up.

Slide four – Some interesting facts about mothers in language and religion

Slide five – What is this about?

- It shows a depiction of mother earth. The idea of mother earth comes from ancient Greek mythology, where the goddess Gaia was said to be the mother of all things. Why do humans think of nature as a mother rather than a father?

Slide six – Video: an advertisement made in the praise of mothers in advance of the 2016 Olympic games

Slide seven – What words would you use to describe your mother?

- Most of these words refer more to how she acts rather than her biological makeup or what she looks like. Think about this in reference to the following slide.

Slide eight – Oprah Winfrey’s quote indicates that motherhood is a lifelong responsibility that may begin with giving birth, but goes far further. Does this mean anyone could be a mother?