

Read a Stained Glass window

Many people in the Middle Ages couldn't read or write. Stained glass windows, carvings and paintings were all useful ways of telling people stories. They were like modern day comics or cartoons. They told stories, recorded histories or gave people messages about how the church expected them to behave.

There are many images which were codes for certain ideas, for example a lamb would represent Jesus, a dove represented peace and a snake represented the Devil and temptation.



What is happening in this picture?

Clue - The man has seeds in his hands

It is taken from a set of windows called the parable windows at Canterbury Cathedral. A parable is a simple story that Jesus told to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson.

What do you think the parable shown here is trying to teach people?



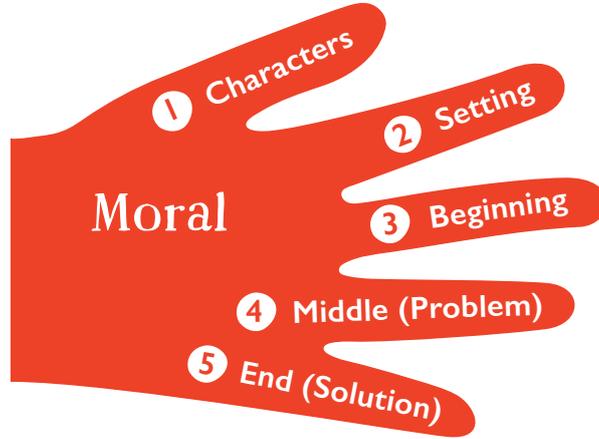
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Could you make up your own parable?

Choose one of your school or family rules that you care about, for example, "Do your best", or "Be Kind".

Using the Story Hand writing frame to the right. Think of a story that shows why your rule is so important. This is the message of your story, your moral. For example if you were creating a parable about the importance of recycling, the moral could be that a clean planet is a happy place.



1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____



You can present your parable in a number of ways including a drama performance, a picture (like the stained glass window) or in a written story.

Parables are still found today in many different areas of our lives, including Art, TV and music. They are an important way of teaching people right from wrong. For example Disney's movie "Finding Nemo" is a parable about never giving up on the people you love.

Can you think of any others you might know?