

Journeys with Mary: Apparitions of Our Lady

Book Title: Journeys with Mary: Apparitions of Our Lady

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Isn't it funny that Mary seems to appear to children way more often than to adults? Is it their innocence? Their unwavering faith? Or maybe their lack of credibility? After all, it takes a lot of faith for an adult to believe a child. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me" (Lk 18:16) but he sends Mary straight to them! We need to remember God's special love for the children in our lives. They may not know calculus yet, but they have joy for life and compassionate hearts that we could probably learn a thing or two from.

While reading our Encounter book *Journeys with Mary*, I couldn't help but think of the tremendous responsibility that falls on anyone blessed enough to see Our Lady. They are given visions and messages that either must be passed on or kept secret, they are often ridiculed by their peers for lying, and they become the focus of a frenzy of people who do believe them. That's a lot for anyone to handle. When you look at it that way, is it even a blessing anymore? Yes. Of course, yes. Think instead of the peace and joy, the miraculous healings, and the centuries of devotion that the apparitions bring. Below you will find discussion questions, activity ideas, and even a language arts worksheet to help you share the wonder of Marian apparitions with your children and pass on the peace, joy, healing, and devotion to the next generation.

Discussion/Written Response Questions

1. What were some of Mary's messages or requests?
2. Sometimes Mary appeared just once, and sometimes she appeared many times in succession. Why do you think she did this?
3. Some people had a hard time believing the visionaries' claims at first. How are these people eventually convinced that Mary has indeed appeared?

Geography Connection

Mark on a map where all of the apparitions occurred. What do you notice about where most of the visions took place? Why do you think this is?

Art Connection



Re-read the various descriptions of Mary and draw her. To make her appear to shine, portions of the paper could be cut out and replaced with white or yellow tissue paper and then hung up on a window. For best results cut out your drawing and glue it to black construction paper (otherwise the light will shine through the whole drawing, not just the holes you cut.)

Language Arts Connection

See Compare/Contrast worksheet below

Name_____

Compare and Contrast: Journeys with Mary

Several people have been visited by the Blessed Virgin. What do the visions have in common? What makes each vision unique? Compare and contrast the following pairs of visionaries.

Lucia, Jacinta, and Francisco and Melanie Matieu and Maximin Giraud

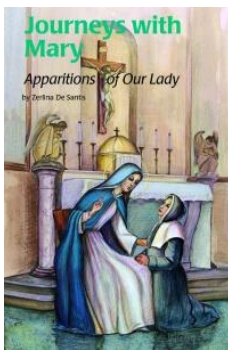
Catherine Labouré and Bernadette Soubirous

Simon Stock and Juan Diego

The townspeople of Knock and the children of Beauraing

Mariette Beco and Bernadette Soubirous

Your choice: _____ and _____



Mary, the Mother of God, has appeared on earth many times and in many different places down through the centuries. She has been called by different titles in different parts of the world. But whenever she has come, Mary has taught us that the way for us to reach God is to follow her Son Jesus.

This book presents the stories of nine apparitions of the Blessed Virgin that have been approved by the Church. These stories demonstrate that Mary continues to watch over and protect us from heaven. Her greatest desire is to leave each of us to God.

Includes: Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Our Lady of La Salette, Our Lady of Lourdes, Our Lady of Knock, Our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady of Beauraint; Our Lady of Banneaux.

Ages 8-12

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