

A Real Saint?

Mother Teresa was a Roman Catholic nun who lived from 1910 until 1997. During her lifetime, she was presented with many **honours** for her work with those living in **poverty**, the disabled and also the dying. The most famous of these **accolades** was the Nobel Peace Prize. In 2016, nineteen years after her death, Mother Teresa was **Canonised** meaning that she was made a saint. Since then, there has been some **controversy** over this with many **scholars** questioning the decision to make Mother Teresa a saint.

To be a saint, there is a strict five-step **criteria** to meet. Firstly, five years need to have passed since the death of the person. Secondly, the person in question has to be a servant of God, this means that they must have been **devoted** to God and his work. Next, the person has to be proved to have had a “heroic virtue”. This means there needs to be evidence to suggest that they have set a good example and have encouraged people to worship God through prayer. Then, the person needs to have performed a miracle when they were living. Each miracle is investigated by the **Vatican**, and if the miracle is thought to be true the **candidate** can move on to the last stage of becoming a saint; Canonisation. Canonisation can only take place if another miracle happens after the person has died, and the miracle has happened when someone else has prayed for the candidate.

First of all, it was **alleged** that Mother Teresa performed a series of miracles. The first miracle being the healing of a tribal woman who had a large **tumour**. The woman, who had already received medical treatment, had a tumour which **threatened** her life. The lady, named Monica, moved into the home of the **Missionaries** of Charity to be nursed. During that time she felt a beam of light from a photograph of Mother Teresa, prayers were said to Mother Teresa and shortly after, the tumour had disappeared. Believers are sure that this is a miracle. Doubters believe that Mother Teresa should not be a saint because they are sure that no miracle happened. In fact, even Monica’s husband did not believe it was a miracle, he thought that the tumour had disappeared thanks to all of the medical treatment Monica had before. How exactly can Monica have felt a beam of light from a photograph? Was it a trick of the light?

Moreover, to become a saint the individual must have performed several miracles both before and after their own death. Although the case of Monica and her tumour was decided by the Pope as a miracle, other events have been questioned. This is because a miracle is only called a miracle if someone is **cured**. Mother Teresa did not go and heal many people, but helped them have a better end of life. She kept them safe and comfortable when they were dying. Although this is all generous and kind work, it is not in fact a miracle, and this is why many people believe that she should not be named a saint.

Mother Teresa helped a large amount of people. This was **evident** when she was living amongst the poorest people in the slums in India. At this point in her life, Saint Teresa (as she is now called) worked hard to provide the basic needs to many people who were living in squalid conditions. This was selfless work, often going without food and water herself. Furthermore, she had already spent much time learning how to nurse before she left the safety of the **convent** to live amongst the people in most need. Although people believe she was generous, some **sceptics** ask why Mother Teresa left the convent to live amongst the poor. Surely it would have been better to keep herself fit and well by living in the convent whilst helping others in the slums?

Mother Teresa set up a **foundation** called the Missionaries of Charity. This foundation was set up to help those people that were sick and dying. People are able to visit the nineteen homes it has in Calcutta when they need help, which is run by nuns. This foundation has helped countless people who needed it and supported them to practice Christianity, however there has been severe **criticism** of the homes. Some doctors have made claims that various people were not treated well in the homes, were not given basic things such as clean water and others were just left. These doctors were comparing the care of the homes to those similar in the UK. Things have changed since then and it is thought that the homes provide better care now than they used to.

In conclusion, there has been great debate and **speculation** since the death of Mother Teresa on if she should have been made a saint or not. Despite the arguments for and against, the Catholic Church have investigated the claims and have found them to be true. Whatever you believe about Mother Teresa’s work, the Pope has awarded her Canonisation and the title of Saint Teresa.

Why has the author chosen to use the word ‘countless’ in the text below?

This foundation has helped countless people who needed help.

The word ‘believe’ is used instead of ‘think’ in the sentence below. Why has the author done this?

Doubters believe that Mother Teresa should not be a saint.

In the extract below, explain how the author creates a feeling of negativity.

In fact, even Monica’s husband did not believe it was a miracle, he thought that the tumour had disappeared thanks to all of the medical treatment Monica had before. How exactly can Monica have felt a beam of light from a photograph? Was it a trick of the light?

Why has the author used a question as the title?

Who is the intended audience?

How has the author tried to keep the argument balanced?

What feature is used in the extract below?

Was it a trick of the light?

Why is it used and what effect does it have on the reader?

What are the arguments for Mother Teresa becoming a saint?

How is the text organised?

Do you agree or disagree that Mother Teresa should be a saint? Discuss with a friend and explain why.

What was the name of the foundation that Saint Teresa set up?

If you could ask the author a question about the content of the text, what would you like to know?

How could you find out more information about Saint Teresa?

Write the meaning of each of the words.

honours _____

poverty _____

accolades _____

Canonised _____

controversy _____

scholars _____

criteria _____

devoted _____

Vatican _____

candidate _____

alleged _____

tumour _____

threatened _____

missionaries _____

cured _____

evident _____

convent _____

sceptics _____

foundation _____

criticism _____

speculation _____

A Real Saint? – Vocab 2

Circle the correct spelling of the word to match each meaning.

public disagreement over a long time		
contruversy	contraversy	controversy

a person nominated for something		
candidate	candidite	candurdate

a standard against which something can be judged		
criteria	critetera	critera

The words below have been chopped up. Put them back together again and write them on the lines underneath with any synonyms you can find in a thesaurus.

ation	threat	cri	all
found	ulation	cand	contro
idate	eged	ened	ours
spec	hon	versy	teria

Write the words in the boxes below to complete the sentence. Remember to use correct punctuation.

Mother Teresa’s Canonization sparked _____

because

that miracles

doubters thought

controversy

had not happened

yet

declared them as truth

the Pope

Write a multi-clause sentence about the debate using after as a subordinating conjunction.

Put one tick in each row to show if the sentence uses a subordinating conjunction.

sentence	subordinating conjunction?	
	yes	no
After assessing the evidence, the Pope agreed that Mother Teresa should become a saint.		
The doubters and the believers had different opinions on the Canonisation.		
The homes were set up by Mother Teresa, however some were thought to have had poor conditions inside.		
Canonisation can only take place if another miracle happens after the person has died.		

Explain why the sentence below is a multi-clause sentence.

Although doubters did not agree, Monica believed that a Miracle had been performed, which cured her.

A Real Saint? – Oral Teacher Questions

Why has the author chosen to use the word 'countless' in the text below?

This foundation has helped countless people who needed help.

To emphasize that they mean a lot of people. Countless means that there are too many to count.

The word 'believe' is used instead of 'think' in the sentence below. Why has the author done this?

Doubters believe that Mother Teresa should not be a saint.

It is more powerful and persuasive. It implies that the people have used their emotions rather than rationalising their answer.

In the extract below, explain how the author creates a feeling of negativity.

In fact, even Monica's husband did not believe it was a miracle, he thought that the tumour had disappeared thanks to all of the medical treatment Monica had before. How exactly can Monica have felt a beam of light from a photograph? Was it a trick of the light?

Rhetorical questions are used to get the reader to think about what is being said, the author has explained away the miracle by asking if it was a trick of the light and it shows criticism against Monica by a close family member.

Why has the author used a question as the title? The text is an argument and the title shows that the author does not know the answer.

Who is the intended audience? Anyone interested in Mother Teresa and the Catholic Church.

How has the author tried to keep the argument balanced? By giving evidence for and against, by posing questions to the reader, an introduction and a balanced conclusion.

What feature is used in the extract below?

Was it a trick of the light?

Rhetorical question.

Why is it used and what effect does it have on the reader? It is used to encourage the reader to think about what is being asked and helps them to decide whether they agree or disagree.

What are the arguments for Mother Teresa becoming a saint? She fit the criteria, she cured a woman after Mother Teresa had died, she helped countless people.

How is the text organised? Introduction, paragraphs with for and against, conclusion.

Do you agree or disagree that Mother Teresa should be a saint? Discuss with a friend and explain why. Personal response.

What was the name of the foundation that Saint Teresa set up? Missionaries of Charity

If you could ask the author a question about the content of the text, what would you like to know? Personal response.

How could you find out more information about Saint Teresa? Internet, books, news.

Write the meaning of each of the words.

honours – to be held in high respect, outstanding achievements

poverty – extremely poor

accolades – an award or privilege

Canonised – the process of being declared a saint

controversy – public disagreement, often over a long period of time

scholars – a person who is highly academic in one area

criteria – a standard against which something can be judged

devoted – giving all of your time and resources to something

Vatican – the group of High Bishops of the Roman Catholic Church

candidate – a person nominated for something

alleged – suspected or supposed

tumour – a growth in the body, can be life-threatening

threatened – at risk

missionaries – people sent on a religious mission on behalf of the church

cured – heal or make better

evident – clearly seen and understood

convent – a community of nuns living together

sceptics – people that question or doubt what has been said or done

foundation – a group of people working towards the same goal

criticism – analysis and disagreement against something

speculation – having a theory or thought without concrete evidence

Circle the correct spelling of the word to match each meaning.

public disagreement over a long time		
contruversy	contraversy	controversy

a person nominated for something		
candidate	candidite	candurdate

a standard against which something can be judged		
criteria	critetera	critera

The words below have been chopped up. Put them back together again and write them on the lines underneath with any synonyms you can find in a thesaurus.

ation	threat	cri	all
found	ulation	cand	contro
idate	eged	ened	ours
spec	hon	versy	teria

controversy – disagreement, argument, debate

speculation – rumour, assumption, gossip

criteria – measures, standards

threatened – endangered, exposed

foundation – institution, organisation

alleged – supposed, suspected

honours – privilege, tribute

candidate – applicant, contender

A Real Saint? – SPAG

Write the words in the boxes below to complete the sentence. Remember to use correct punctuation.

Mother Teresa’s Canonization sparked **controversy because doubters thought that miracles had not happened yet the Pope declared them as truth.**

because	that miracles	doubters thought	controversy
had not happened	yet	declared them as truth	the Pope

Write a multi-clause sentence about the debate using after as a subordinating conjunction.

After her death, Mother Teresa was made a Saint.

There was a lot of controversy about the decision after the Pope made her a Saint.

Put one tick in each row to show if the sentence uses a subordinating conjunction.

sentence	subordinating conjunction?	
	yes	no
After assessing the evidence, the Pope agreed that Mother Teresa should become a saint.	✓	
The doubters and the believers had different opinions on the Canonisation.		✓
The homes were set up by Mother Teresa, however some were thought to have had poor conditions inside.	✓	
Canonisation can only take place if another miracle happens after the person has died.	✓	

Explain why the sentence below is a multi-clause sentence.

Although doubters did not agree, Monica believed that a Miracle had been performed, which cured her.

The sentence uses ‘although’ as a subordinate clause and ‘which’ as a relative clause.