Fertile Question: Why do I need a story to live by?

Core Content Area 2: The big stories

TOPIC 2.1: The Jewish story

Extending Knowledge: Interpreting biblical texts

In this lesson students will use tools for interpreting biblical texts.

Teachers: Before You Start!

1. Familiarise yourself with Psalm 23.

For students to use tools for interpreting biblical texts, select from the following activities:

1. Explore the use of narrative criticism as a device for understanding biblical text.
   a. Examine the text of Psalm 23 using narrative criticism.
      i. Read the following introduction to Narrative Criticism as described by Dr Peta Goldburg (2009) in Investigating Religion.
         Narrative criticism invites readers to question the way the story is told and from whose perspective. This type of criticism encourages readers to note how they are positioned as readers. (page 65)
      ii. Locate Psalm 23 in the Bible and complete the following questions and activities.
         Where is this text located within the Bible?
         Read the whole Psalm.
         Apply narrative criticism to analyse the text using the retrieval chart in Useful Resources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text:</th>
<th>Location of the text in the Bible:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Analytical questions</td>
<td>Answers</td>
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**Events**

How is the text ordered?

**Characters**

Who is the text about?

What happens?

**Narrator**

Whose voice is being heard?

What values are presented?

Is the narrator's perspective reliable?

**Literary Form**

What literary devices are used to tell the story?

How important is imagery in the text?

**Implied Readers and the World of the Text**

Who are the implied readers of the text?

How is the text meant to be read?

Write the meaning of the text for you.