



Catholic Schools Week 2022
Catholic Schools: Living Life to the Full

FRIDAY

Living Life in Wonder and Awe

23 JANUARY – 30 JANUARY 2022





Introduction:

A concerning number of stories appealing to young people, whether in film or book form, envisage a bleak, dystopian future. They often contain climate disasters, pandemics and even zombie apocalypses! We may, therefore, need to try harder to be positive about the future, to believe we can pursue our dreams, to have confidence that God will show us the way to a full life of faith, love and hope for the future.



This is the direction that Pope Francis points us towards – ‘We must restore hope to young people, help the old, be open to the future, spread love.’

Key Words:

Future, hope, life, love, fullness.

Activities:

1. Listen to the song ‘Lift the Ceiling’ by Greenshine and answer the questions that follow.



(Image – song cover, used with permission of Mary Greene)

A video of the song is available here: <https://youtu.be/aVeK8kUjEzw>.

Lyrics to the song are available here: <https://greenshine.bandcamp.com/track/lift-the-ceiling-2>.

What present challenges in life are suggested in the song?

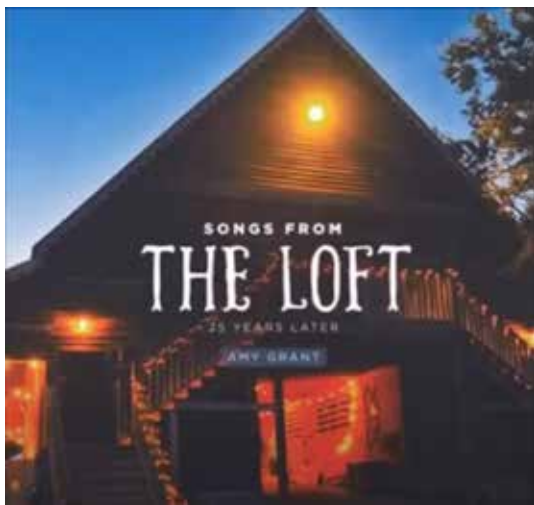




What elements of hope and optimism for the future are outlined in the song?



2. Listen to the song 'Hope Set High' by Amy Grant and answer the questions that follow.



(Image from song video on YouTube.com)



A video of the song is available here: <https://youtu.be/K1gO8mByaJE>.
Lyrics to the song are available here: <https://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/amygrant/hopesethigh.html>.

How does the songwriter find confidence and hope for the future in religious faith?

What, in your opinion, are the ingredients of a full life in the present?





If hope helps for the future, what helps to live a full life in the present?



Thought for the Day:

'I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.' (John 10:10)

Reflection:

Sometimes there can seem to be a contradiction between living a full life in the present and turning our minds to the future. But it doesn't have to be an 'either/or'; we can do both. In fact, living fully in the present can create a firm foundation for a positive future. As we turn our minds and hearts towards others and towards God, we can create a satisfying and worthwhile present while building a future that will enhance our lives.

See related PowerPoint available for prayer/reflection/meditation.



Additional Worksheet – Living Life and Facing the Future

Give your personal response to the following quotes on the present and the future:

'The future starts today, not tomorrow.' (Pope John Paul II)

'There is nothing like a dream to create the future.' (Victor Hugo)





'You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today.' (Abraham Lincoln)



'The empires of the future are the empires of the mind.' (Winston Churchill)

'All that we suffer in the present time is nothing in comparison with the glory which is destined to be disclosed for us.' (Romans 8:18)



'The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.' (Eleanor Roosevelt)





Accompanying Notes:

The theme of the future can be pursued in conjunction with other subjects as follows:

English/Film Studies: Students could discuss why dystopian stories about the future in film and fiction appeal to young people, for example *The Hunger Games*. Are there works of art that envisage or encourage belief in a better future?

Science: Students could explore scientific developments that might transform our lives in the future, along with the aesthetic and moral implications of these developments.

CSPE: Students could explore how different political or legal systems and structures can be designed to guard against misuse of power in the future.

Art: Students could be invited to draw or create a variety of art expressing their own visions of the future.

