



The Montagu Monuments

Literacy

✂ This tribute poem for Lady Mary displayed on the central column of monument 3 was written by popular hymn writer Henry Lyte (his best-known hymns include 'Abide With Me' and 'Praise, my soul, the King of heaven')

Here on thy Tomb, that bath'd in Tears
Thy widow'd Lord's Affection rears
Let me, Oh much lov'd MONTAGU
Inscribe thy Name & praises due.
To Birth or Wealth, my noble friend
Thou didst not Lustre owe, but lend,
For in thy Heart, & lovely Mind
All Virtues met, & Talents shin'd.
Not CHARITY's own tender breast
More Pity felt for all distrest
To ev'ry Wretch thy bounteous Alms
Gave Raiment, Food or healing Balms.
No wonder then, if o'er thy Urn
Poor orphan Babes & Widows mourn
Heav'n gains a holy Saint tis true
But They have lost their Montagu"

✂ Use the poem as the focus for discussion in small groups:

- Do you notice anything unusual about the style of language? Is this how we speak today? What do you think the following words mean?

thy =

thou =

distrest =

o'er =

tis =

- Are there any words you don't recognise? Use a dictionary to try and find out what the following words mean:

noble

virtue

alms

raiment

- What do you think the writer trying to say about Mary? Why is the monument 'bath'd in Tears'? There are two words written in capital letters. Why do you think this is?
- Is there a pattern to the rhyming in the poem? Try underlining all of the words that rhyme.
- Can you hear any pattern in the rhythm of the poem? Try reading it out loud and saying every syllable slowly. How many syllables are in each line?

Discussion can be followed by the opportunity for each child to write their own tribute poem for any of the four family members commemorated in the monuments. Use the pre-visit teacher pack and the completed trails from your visit for information about each individual. Children should try to use at least one of the new words learnt from discussion and also incorporate some of the techniques used in Lyte's poem.

✂ Further ideas:

- Write hiakus for each of the four family members represented in the Montagu Monuments.
- Think about John and his love of animals. If you were him, what exotic animal would you rescue next from the Tower of London menagerie? Write a clear set of instructions for your servant about the care of your new animal. Where should it sleep? What should it be fed? Remember to give reasons for each of your instructions so that the servant understands the importance of getting it right!
- Use the theme of charity (a value strongly shared by each of the four family members) to write a persuasive letter to your local MP about helping local people in need.*
- Ask each child in the class to write a kind 'deed for the day' on small pieces of paper before rolling into scrolls and tying with string. Each day a different child should choose a kind deed to perform, reporting back to the class the following morning before the next child is chosen.*

**These activities also tie in to PSHE/Citizenship*



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Art

 **Design a monument for your favourite person, a celebrity or a historical figure you've been learning about.**

Start by making a list of things they are known for.

- **What is it that makes them special?**
- **What is their personality like?**
- **What are their favourite things?**

How do you want to show the person in the monument? Think back to the Montagu Monuments. Only Duke John's face is portrayed in the medallion and neither the 2nd or 3rd Duchess Mary appears *anywhere* in their monuments. In fact, only Lady Elizabeth is represented in realistic human form. You can make your person realistic, or abstract, or even just give an idea of them through the items you choose to display.

Think about the different qualities of sculpture materials like marble, wood, bronze and plaster.

- **What would your monument be made from?**
- **Why did you choose this material?**
- **Where would it be displayed and why?**

Once you have made your planning notes you can begin sketching your ideas. Add labels to your sketch so that you remember what each detail is meant to represent.

Other ideas:

- **Drawing back to back:** working in pairs, sit back to back with a blank sheet of paper and a pencil in front of you. Spend 5 minutes describing your monument design to your partner for them to sketch, then swap over so that they are describing and you are sketching. When you have finished, you can compare your sketches to your original design.
- **Try creating a model for your monument using sculpture. You could use a variety of materials:**

Paper mache

Recycled materials

Plaster of Paris

Air drying clay

Lollypop sticks

Plastic straws



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Music

Lady Elizabeth Montagu had a great love of music. She encouraged and helped the family's servant Ignatius Sancho in fulfilling his dream of becoming a composer and musician. You can hear recordings of his music here: <http://sanchomusic.synthasite.com>

Listen to the following pieces of music written by Sancho. Use the questions as a guide for discussion after the children have heard the music. They can work in pairs or groups before discussing as a whole class.

Lady Mary Montague's Reel

- What words would you use to describe the music?
- How does it make you feel?
- How do you think Sancho felt about Lady Mary Montagu? Did they like each other?
- Do you know the name of the instrument the music is being played on?

Kew Gardens

- How is this tune different to Lady Mary Montague's Reel?
- Do you think the music is trying to make us think of something? If so, what?
- Where/how do you think families like the Montagus would have listened to music like this? What is its purpose?
- How is different to the music we listen to today?
- In what ways is it similar?

Other ideas:

- If there is time, you can also listen to a contrasting modern recording of Sancho's Minuets by the Afro-American Chamber Music Society Orchestra:
<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=9VUJY688nd8> Plaster of Paris
- Discussion questions:
How many different instruments can you hear this time?

Do you know what any of them are called?

How is this more modern performance different to the music you heard before?