# **Disposition:** Appreciating Beauty

## **Lesson:** Three

### Question/LO: What is the downside to saying that some things are beautiful?

| **Dimension of learning** | **Activities** | **Resources** |
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| Learning to discern | Pupils have already identified that some things can be thought of as beautiful. Can this ever become a problem? Does it depend on *who decides* what is beautiful? If people only ever value the beautiful, what happens to the ideas, places, sounds and people that are not regarded as beautiful? What consequences can pupils think of? Does it set an unreachable standard for many? It can result in rejection. (A trivial example here is of fruit and vegetables that don’t meet customers’ views of what is beautiful/acceptable and are sometimes left at the bottom of the box)  Are pupils aware of the pressures from social media and other sources to look a certain way? Do they know what effect this can have on some people? | n/a |
| Learning about religious traditions and non-religious world-views | In the past few years, the Bishop of Gloucester, Libby Lane, has spoken out about this pressure. She recognises that when a society places a lot of value on human physical beauty, this can make a lot of young people worry about the way that they look. She has promoted an initiative called #Liedentity. The purpose of this campaign is to remind young people that what people look like is not their total identity – that the message that people’s value depends on their appearance is a lie. Why do pupils think that an Anglican Bishop is promoting this campaign? How does this fit with what pupils know about Christianity?  One story that is important to Jewish people and Christians is the story from the Old Testament where the prophet Samuel has to go and find the next king of Israel. The Bible says that he is sent by God to go to see Jesse, a man with seven sons, and that he will find the new king there.  Read I Sam 16 6-13  Christians like this story as it shows that God is less interested in outward appearance as what goes on inside the person “Humans look on the outside, but God looks on the heart.” | An image of Bishop Libby Lane can be found here <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-derbyshire-46603995>  For teachers to find out more about the Campaign see here  [Liedentity – Diocese of Gloucester (anglican.org)](https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/support-services/communications/liedentity/)  I Sam 16 6-13  <https://www.biblegateway.com/>  Choose International Children’s Version |
| Learning from faith and non-religious world-views | What does it mean to look on (or at) the heart instead of someone’s external appearance?  Watch the video clip where Bishop Libby is talking with a group of secondary school pupils about how the expectation to look good all the time makes them feel.  Can the pupils recognise this pressure to look good/perfect/beautiful? Do they understand the way that this can make people feel? What does Bishop Libby say to suggest that there is another way for people to think about themselves, and that they don’t have to feel rejected, or disappointed or angry with themselves? She talks about this more in the BBC Breakfast clip explaining that, as a Christian, she believes that all people are made in the ‘image of God’. This is an idea in the Bible from the book of Genesis (1.27) She wants people to know that they are known and loved and valued.  Activity: Just like the pupils in the video, ask pupils to consider role models whose positive qualities they prize. Pupils can find a picture of that person and outline which qualities that person possesses. Once each pupil has identified a role model, do a survey to identify which qualities are most often identified as being admirable.  Question: How do pupils let other people know that they are valued for themselves and not how they look? In the first video, pupils are challenged to say positive things about each other – not based on appearance.  Can pupils talk about people in the class, or friends and family whose attributes they value rather than their appearance?  How have pupils’ thoughts about beauty changed since the start of the unit? | [Body Image and the Liedentity Campaign: Cotswold School - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=39c1gqJbUMw)  [#LIEDENTITY: Bishop Rachel on BBC Breakfast News, talking about body image - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9qN4XBNHVEc&t=126s) start from 2 mins 22- 3.09. |