

Martin Luther King Jr. preaches at St Paul's Cathedral

On the morning of 6 December 1964 Dr Martin Luther King Jr addressed a congregation of 4,000 people from the pulpit of St Paul's Cathedral and delivered his sermon '*The Three Dimensions of a Complete Life*'. He was flying from the USA to Norway to collect his Nobel Peace Prize and on the invitation of one of the Cathedral's clergy, Canon John Collins, Dr King chose to break his journey and stop in London to preach at the Cathedral.



This is part of his sermon:

"If you can't be a pine on the top of a hill
Be a scrub in the valley - but be
The best little scrub on the side of the hill,
Be a bush if you can't be a tree.
If you can't be a highway just be a trail
If you can't be the sun be a star;
It isn't by size that you win or fail -
Be the best of whatever you are.
And when you do this, when you do this, you've mastered the length of life"

Creative Writing Activity

Can you use the structure of MLK's sermon to write your own poem? Use the format and headings below to help you. The first one is filled in as an example:

Weather

If you can't be *a raging, powerful storm*

be *a cool, gentle breeze*

Nature

If you can't be _____

be _____

Hobby

If you can't be _____

be _____

Animal

If you can't be _____

be _____

Food

If you can't be _____

be _____

Colour

If you can't be _____

be _____

Feeling

If you can't be _____

be _____