

Lesson Plan Two– St Mary's Church, Beaumont

Activity Title: Creative Writing

Objectives: **English**, writing comprehension Y3&4 and Y5&6 p.o.s.
Use notes and jottings taken on site to write letters and reports.

Resources required

Writing materials for note making and recording

St Mary's Worksheet 2

A camera if available to provide visual recordings.

Activity

In school before the visit

Talk about the site of St Mary's on the Roman Wall and how this would have been guarded by Roman Soldiers from the time of the Roman Empire. (See resources re Roman Soldiers for St Michael's Church, Burgh). Talk about how life might have been for them living so far from their home and in such a remote location.

At the church

Take time to consider the panorama visible from different aspects of the church and in particular the unbroken view across the the Solway Estuary. Consider the weather and what it would have been like at different times of the year. Use the attached worksheet 2 to recorded what can be seen, heard and felt while considering the views from around the church.

In School after the visit

Use the notes and jottings taken on the day (plus photographs if available) to ask the children to write as if they were a Roman Soldier who had done duty on the wall that day. Either:

A report. To the legionary guard about the duty the soldier had undertaken that day. Using the notes taken and embellished with creative additions, record what the soldier saw, heard and felt during his hours on duty on the cold, desolate and lonely wall.

A letter home. To his family telling them about what life was like a soldier in the most northern and remote part of the Empire.

Plenary

Use the children's writing to identify and clarify the challenges faced by soldiers on the wall. Have them discuss in groups what they would have needed to improve their lives and make things more comfortable. Collect a class list of what a soldier might need to improve their life while stationed on the wall. Use future lessons to investigate how many of these were actually available to the soldiers.