

WAGOLL - What A Good One Looks Like

Mother Teresa Biography

Mother Teresa was one of the most significant figures of the 20th century.

She felt her calling from God was to help the sick and needy people of India. Working almost up until her death in 1997, she remains an inspiration to people all over the world.

Early Life

She was born on August 26th 1910 and given the name Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu. Her birth place was the modern day city of Skopje, the capital city of the Republic of Macedonia. Agnes was raised by her mother as her father died when she was only eight years old.

Devotion to God

Agnes was from a Roman Catholic family and devoted her life to God from a very young age. At 18, she joined the Sisters of Loreto to become a missionary in India. Agnes was based in Darjeeling and had to learn Bengali which enabled her to teach at the local school. She then took her first vows as a nun, and became known as Teresa.

At 36, she felt a calling from God and went to help the sick and the needy of India, receiving basic medical training beforehand. She had very little support and often went hungry herself. She once said, 'God doesn't require us to succeed, he only requires that you try'. Her words and cause inspired others to join her, therefore the Missionaries of Charity was formed.

Awards and Achievements

Later in her life, Mother Teresa was awarded many honours for her humanitarian work, including the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979. She refused the prize winner's banquet, asking that the money for this lavish occasion went to those who needed it more.

She received India's highest civilian award in 1980 and Albania's international airport was named after her.

Her Death

She died from heart failure on the 5th September 1997 in Calcutta, India. Mother Teresa was given a state funeral by the Indian government in appreciation of all her work. Her death was mourned all over the world.

Her Legacy

Today, her legacy continues through the Missionaries of Charity which now has over 4,500 nuns who care for people all over the world. The organisation runs schools, soup kitchens and homes for orphaned children. All of these services are free and open to those in need.

This extraordinary woman will always be remembered for the love and care she showed to many people in her lifetime. She once said, 'Not all of us can do great things. But we can all do small things with great love.'

In 2003, Pope John Paul II began the process of making Mother Teresa a saint. Her official title, given to her by the Catholic Church, is Blessed Teresa of Calcutta.

WAGOLL - What A Good One Looks Like

Mother Teresa Biography

Mother Teresa was one of the most significant figures of the 20th century.

An interesting opening statement/question used to hook the reader.

She felt her calling from God was to help the sick and needy people of India. Working almost up until her death in 1997, she remains an inspiration to people all over the world.

A first paragraph summarising some of the main events in the person's life.

Early Life

Sub-headings help to put the person's life in chronological order.

Use of the past tense.

She was born on August 26th 1910 and given the name Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu. Her birth place was the modern day city of Skopje, the capital city of the Republic of Macedonia. Agnes was raised by her mother as her father died when she was only eight years old.

Use of third person pronouns to link paragraphs.

Devotion to God

Make reference to the key influence/s in the person's life.

Agnes was from a Roman Catholic family and devoted her life to God from a very young age. At 18, she joined the Sisters of Loreto to become a missionary in India. Agnes was based in Darjeeling and had to learn Bengali which enabled her to teach at the local school. She then took her first vows as a nun, and became known as Teresa.

At 36, she felt a calling from God and went to help the sick and the needy of India, receiving basic medical training beforehand. She had very little support and often went hungry herself. She once said, 'God doesn't require us to succeed, he only requires that you try'. Her words and cause inspired others to join her, therefore the Missionaries of Charity was formed.

Repetition helps to link paragraphs.

Awards and Achievements

It is important to highlight major achievements in the person's life.

Time adverbials help with sequencing.

Later in her life, Mother Teresa was awarded many honours for her humanitarian work, including the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979. She refused the prize winner's banquet, asking that the money for this lavish occasion went to those who needed it more.

She received India's highest civilian award in 1980 and Albania's international airport was named after her.

Use of the passive voice.

Her Death

She died from heart failure on the 5th September 1997 in Calcutta, India. Mother Teresa was given a state funeral by the Indian government in appreciation of all her work. Her death was mourned all over the world.

Her Legacy

Today, her legacy continues through the Missionaries of Charity which now has over 4,500 nuns who care for people all over the world. The organisation runs schools, soup kitchens and homes for orphaned children. All of these services are free and open to those in need.

Summarise how the person will be remembered.

This extraordinary woman will always be remembered for the love and care she showed to many people in her lifetime. She once said, 'Not all of us can do great things. But we can all do small things with great love.'

Quotes are a good way of conveying the person's character.

In 2003, Pope John Paul II began the process of making Mother Teresa a saint. Her official title, given to her by the Catholic Church, is Blessed Teresa of Calcutta.