

Transcript of student commentary

Left side of poster

In the top half of the circle are the positive influences of my life. In the bottom half are the negative influences. Around the perimeter are the positive and negative spiritual influences represented by the Greek, Norse and Egyptian gods, whose myths I have always enjoyed. I've selected images to represent events, concepts, activities and things which have effect on my life.

In the smallest circle I have put the things most close to me. I am shown in my favourite part of life, using my energy. Immediately to either side are my parents, my brothers and friends. To the one side are the influences I associate with my Mum and Dad – mostly farming, some good and some bad.

On the other side are sports and games – while the bad influences of fighting and bullying are there, there is also Peace and family and animals and music. The Tower of Babel represents the trouble I have with language.

As the circles radiate out they include things that don't effect me, personally, as much as those in the centre but I realise the further out they are from the centre the more important they are to the world, until in the outer circle they effect everyone spiritually.

I see the circle as in four quarters. If the first quarter is the one above the Wadebridge School sign, I see this area as showing the different religions of the world as created by man, but in my own close circle is farming. Science is here too and my school.

Right side of Poster

In the negative quarter below it, are the man-made destructive things – from bullying to politics, slavery, war, racism, weapons of mass destruction, terrorism and finally, hell.

In the quarter beside this one are the natural disasters like hurricanes, tsunamis, earthquakes and drought. We all suffer from natural events, but how we react to them effects our survival.

In the top quarter, which is my favourite, are the natural wonders which influence my life the most. I include sport in this area, and wild animals, basic art and rhythmic music. The volcano is there as a god influence, because without the gases produced by volcanoes our planet would be lifeless. Also the sun, for its light, heat and energy.

I think everyone in the world must have circles of influence something like mine, but the inner circles which make up the personal details would change for each individual. Different people would have different favourite areas, and maybe some of the things I find negative, they may find positive.

I think religious teaching helps to let people share the same ideas of positive and negative, but it also seems to get some people completely blinded by their vision of righteousness.

I think respect for all things, a bit like in the Aboriginal stories and Dreamtime is the way to find the most common spiritual ground with other people.