

Cultural Learning: Halloween (D.I.E.)

The Assignment:

Find a non-Christian friend, family member or neighbour with whom you can discuss the following questions about the celebration of Halloween. The questions below are meant to get you started but feel free to add your own.

RCC'er name: _____

Conversation partner(s) name(s): _____

Describe

- What can you see/smell/touch/taste/hear during the Halloween season and on Halloween night?
- What symbols, colours, images are associated with Halloween?
- What words/ideas get used for Halloween celebrations?
- What actions are people doing related to this celebration?
- Do adults and children do the same things? Why or why not?
- Are there roles, expectations and/or rituals that can be observed and described?
- What are some Halloween traditions that get passed down from generation to generation?

Interpret

- What does Halloween mean to your non-Christian friend/family member?
- Do different individuals/families come to Halloween with different ideas of its meaning? What are some examples?
- *Why* do people participate in the Halloween activities they choose?
- What do the practices and activities of Halloween reveal about how we think of the roles of children and parents? Neighbours?
- How are the symbols associated with Halloween interpreted? Do people agree on their meaning(s)?

Evaluate

- What does the current celebration of Halloween reveal about our neighbours' attitudes toward the supernatural?
- What does the celebration of Halloween say about what values are most important to those who participate?
- What understanding of the meaning/purpose of life motivates people's participation in Halloween?
- Are there assumptions about life, death, and the afterlife that are the basis for some or all Halloween celebrations?