

Heroes of Faith

**Amy  
Carmichael**



**FROM  
MILLISLE TO INDIA**

In this unit you will have the opportunity to:

- Consider your idea of what makes a 'hero'
- Create your own comic strip
- Reflect on the Bible's views on heroism
- Work in a group to create a mime
- Explore the life of Amy Carmichael
- Prepare a presentation which may include drama
- Reflect on your own beliefs and actions





**Is this your idea of a hero?**

Take a moment now to sketch what a hero looks like for you.

Use stick men if you can't draw!

You could pin your cartoon on the notice board.



In the New Testament book of Hebrews, chapter 11, the writer makes a great list of people he describes as “heroes of faith”.

Listen to a reading from the chapter. You may wish to follow the reading in your bible too. It is Hebrews chapter 11: verses 5-9; 11,12; and 23-30.

How much do you remember?

Try to answer the questions on the worksheet without looking up the chapter again.





Is this your idea of a hero?

You have been given a set of cards.

With your partner choose the **three** words that you believe would best describe a hero. Make sure you can defend your choice.

Take a moment now to sketch what a hero looks like for you.

Use stick men if you can't draw!

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# Hebrews Chapter 11

Verses: 5-9; 11,12; 23-30

- 5 By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God.
- 6 And without faith, it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.
- 7 By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.
- 8 By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.
- 9 By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise.

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- 11 By faith Abraham, even though he was past age—and Sarah herself was barren—was enabled to become a father because he considered Him faithful who had made the promise.
  - 12 And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the sea

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- 23 By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.
  - 24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter.
  - 25 He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time.
  - 26 He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.
  - 27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.
  - 28 By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.
  - 29 By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.
  - 30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them for seven days.

# Hebrews II Quiz



1. What do we need if we want to please God?

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2. What was unusual about the end of Enoch's life?

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3. What did Abraham not know before he obeyed God and went?

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4. How did Moses' parents show their faith and courage?

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5. What were the people of Israel able to pass through because of their faith, although it later killed the Egyptians?

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# More Heroes Task 1

<sup>32</sup> And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets,  
<sup>33</sup> who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions,  
<sup>34</sup> quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies.  
<sup>35</sup> Women received back their dead, raised to life again. Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection.  
<sup>36</sup> Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison.  
<sup>37</sup> They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated-  
<sup>38</sup> the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.”

Hebrews 11 32-38



**Work in groups of 4 or 5.**

**Create a mime to demonstrate 3 of the examples of faith and courage in the above passage from Hebrews.**

**Find some inspirational music to use as background to your mime and perform it for the class.**



Amy's childhood home was in Millisle on the Co. Down coast.

She was born in 1867.

Both her parents were from families who had emigrated to Ulster from Scotland a few centuries earlier.



Amy spent most of her life far away from Ulster.

She lived and worked in southern India as a missionary .

# Amy Learns About Prayer

## Read or listen to this story.

Once when Amy was a little girl she decided to test if God really answered prayer or not. She had a pretty pair of brown eyes but thought it would be much better to have blue ones, so she prayed for God to change hers to a blue pair! She felt very disappointed and upset when she looked in the mirror and found that her eyes were still brown. She started to doubt whether God could really answer prayers.

Amy's mother explained that "No" was an answer too and that God had answered her prayer in that way. Amy accepted the answer but still wondered why God had chosen to refuse her request.

Years later when Amy went to India she believed she found the reason. The Indian people Amy worked among were brown skinned and brown eyed. To show them that she didn't think she was better than them in any way, Amy began dressing in the sort of clothes worn by Indian women. At times, her work rescuing children from prostitution meant she had to disguise herself further by dyeing her skin brown too. She was very glad then that her eyes were brown, as blue eyes would immediately have given her away as a foreigner. She felt that showed how wise God was in saying "No".



# Amy Learns About Prayer

## What do you remember?

Fill in the spaces in the sentences below to see how much you have remembered of Amy's story about prayer.

Amy wanted to test if God really \_\_\_\_\_ prayer. She had \_\_\_\_\_ eyes. She asked God to make them \_\_\_\_\_ but nothing happened. This made her \_\_\_\_\_ whether God could really answer prayer. Amy's mother explained that God had answered \_\_\_\_\_.

When Amy went to India she began dressing in Indian clothes. She did this to show she did not think she was \_\_\_\_\_ than the people she worked with. Often she had to \_\_\_\_\_ children from being used as prostitutes in Indian \_\_\_\_\_. She had to \_\_\_\_\_ herself by dyeing her skin \_\_\_\_\_ so that she could do this dangerous work. She was very glad then that her eyes were \_\_\_\_\_ and not \_\_\_\_\_, as \_\_\_\_\_ eyes would have given her away. She felt that showed how \_\_\_\_\_ God was in saying \_\_\_\_\_ to her prayer



Does this portrait give you any idea about what Amy was like as a person?

Does she look kind or stern?

Below are some web-sites you might use to try to find out more about Amy.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amy\\_Carmichael](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amy_Carmichael)

<http://www.ulsterhistory.co.uk/carmichael.htm>

<http://www.dohnavurfellowship.org/>

<http://www.heroesofhistory.com/page30.html>



You should also try the school and public library for books about her.

Two fairly detailed books are:

*The Wild Bird Child* by Derek Bingham

*A Chance to Die* by Elizabeth Elliot



# What Do I Need to Know? Task 2a



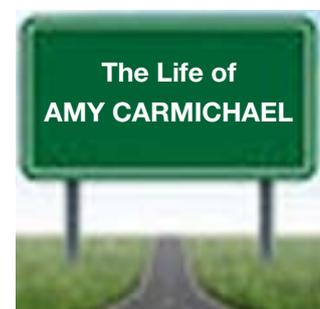
**Work with a partner.**

**Try to find answers to the following questions about Amy:**

- 1.** Amy was born in the Victorian Age when people, especially women, were expected to behave very properly. What was Amy actually like as a little girl?
- 2.** What incident made Amy decide to live her life serving God?
- 3.** Where did she first do some missionary work?
- 4.** How did it happen that Amy went to India?
- 5.** What sort of work did Amy do there? What did the children call her?
- 6.** What was the name of the Fellowship Amy founded?
- 7.** What was the Sisterhood of the Common Life? Why do you think it had this name?
- 8.** When did Amy die? What did she do that made her name well known as well as the work of the mission?

**Prepare a presentation** on Amy's life and work.

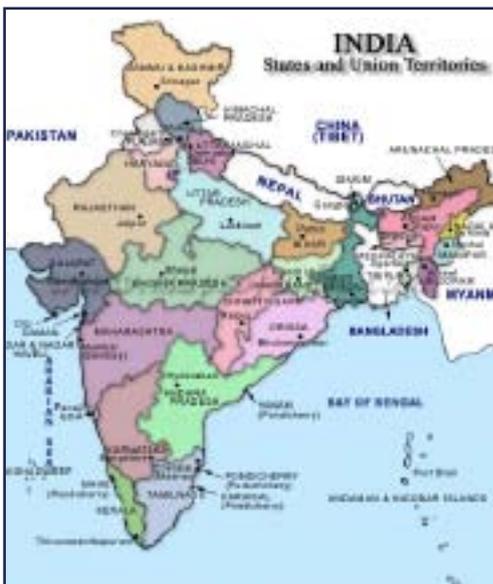
- You may use slides and a spoken commentary  
or
- Briefly dramatise two or three incidents from her life with a linking commentary.



# What Do I Need to Know? Task 2b

**Work with a partner.**

**Try to find out more about India in the nineteenth century:**



1. What is the climate like in southern India?
2. Where exactly is Dohnavur?
3. What language is spoken there?
4. India was part of the British Empire for most of Amy's life. How were Indians treated by the British ruling class?
5. What was the main religion in the part of India where Amy worked?  
Find out a little about its beliefs.
6. Which practice of this religion did Amy feel was wrong?
7. How do we know the law of the country supported this wrong practice?

**You will find some of the information you need on the websites about Amy.**

**You should also try Search Engines for information on India's climate and religion, or India during British rule.**

**Make a chart or mind map to display this information and to help you remember it.**

# Extension Activity



This is the 'My Hero' website. You can find it at

<http://www.myhero.com/myhero/go/participate/index.asp>

On the site you can not only read about people from many walks of life who have gone on to do great things but you also have the opportunity to share your opinion on the site for others to read.

Just think YOUR hero and why you've chosen them could be read by people all over the world.

**GET WRITING!**

# Take Time To Reflect

These matter to me NOW/ Issues that I think are important:

This is what I would really like my life to be in 10 years from now:

When I am 70 I would like to be able to look back on my life and to have achieved.....

