For teaching activities relating to these texts, please see the accompanying PowerPoint.
For related images, please see the accompanying PDF.

**Genesis 2:4–3:24**

4 This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, when the **LORD** God made the earth and the heavens.

5 Now no shrub had yet appeared on the earth and no plant had yet sprung up, for the **LORD** God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground, **6** but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground. **7** Then the **LORD** God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

8 Now the **LORD** God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. **9** The **LORD** God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground – trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil…

…15 The **LORD** God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. **16** And the **LORD** God commanded the man, ‘You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; **17** but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.’

18 The **LORD** God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.’

19 Now the **LORD** God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. **20** So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.

But for Adam no suitable helper was found. **21** So the **LORD** God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. **22** Then the **LORD** God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

23 The man said,

‘This is now bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called ‘woman,’
for she was taken out of man.’

24 That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

25 Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

The Fall: *Genesis 3*

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?’

2 The woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

4 ‘You will not certainly die,’ the serpent said to the woman. 5 ‘For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’

6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the LORD God called to the man, ‘Where are you?’

10 He answered, ‘I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.’

11 And he said, ‘Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?’

12 The man said, ‘The woman you put here with me – she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.’

13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, ‘What is this you have done?’ The woman said, ‘The serpent deceived me, and I ate.’

…17 To Adam [God] said, ‘Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’ …

…19 By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.’ …

…22 And the LORD God said, ‘The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.’ 23 So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. 24 After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

Two of far nobler shape, erect and tall,  
Godlike erect, with native honour clad  
In naked majesty, seemed lords of all,  
And worthy seemed; for in their looks divine  
The image of their glorious Maker shone,  
Truth, wisdom, sanctitude severe and pure,  
(Severe, but in true filial freedom placed),  
Whence true authority in men; tho’ both  
Not equal, as their sex not equal seemed;  
For contemplation he, and valour formed;  
For softness she and sweet attractive grace,  
He for God only, she for God in him:  
His fair large front and eye sublime declar’d  
Absolute rule; and hyacinthin locks  
Round from his parted forelock manly hung  
Clustering, but not beneath his shoulders broad:  
She as a veil down to the slender waist  
Her unadorned golden tresses wore  
Dishevel’d, but in wanton ringlets wav’d  
As the vine curls her tendrils, which imply’d  
Subjection, but required with gentle sway,  
And by her yielded, by him best receiv’d,  
Yielded with coy submission, modest pride,  
And sweet reluctant amorous delay.

Extract from *Paradise Lost: Book IV*  
John Milton, 1674
Extract from *Paradise Lost*: Book IX

John Milton, 1674

She gave him of that fair enticing fruit
With liberal hand: he scrupled not to eat,
Against his better knowledge; not deceiv’d,
But fondly overcome with female charm.
Earth trembled from her entrails, as again
In pangs; and Nature gave a second groan;
Sky lour’d; and, muttering thunder, some sad drops
Wept at completing of the mortal sin
Original: while Adam took no thought,
Eating his fill; nor Eve to iterate
Her former trespass fear’d, the more to sooth
Him with her lov’d society; that now,
As with new wine intoxicated both,
They swim in mirth, and fancy that they feel
Divinity within them breeding wings.
Wherewith to scorn the Earth: but that false fruit
Far other operation first display’d,
Carnal desire inflaming; he on Eve
Began to cast lascivious eyes; she him
As wantonly repaid; in lust they burn:
Till Adam thus ‘gan Eve to dalliance move:

“Eve, now I see thou art exact of taste
And elegant, of sapience no small part;
Since to each meaning savour we apply,
And palate call judicious; I the praise
Yield thee, so well this day thou hast purvey’d.
Much pleasure we have lost, while we abstain’d
From this delightful fruit, nor known till now
True relish, tasting; if such pleasure be
In things to us forbidd’n, it might be wish’d,
For this one tree had been forbidden ten.
But come, so well refresh'd, now let us play,
As meet is, after such delicious fare;
For never did thy beauty, since the day
I saw thee first and wedded thee, adorn'd
With all perfections, so inflame my sense
With ardour to enjoy thee, fairer now
Than ever; bounty of this virtuous tree!
So said he, and forbore not glance or toy
Of amorous intent; well understood
Of Eve, whose eye darted contagious fire.
Her hand he seiz'd; and to a shady bank,
Thick over-head with verdant roof imbower'd,
He led her, nothing loth; flowers were the couch,
Pansies, and violets, and asphodel
And hyacinths; Earth's freshest softest lap.
There they their fill of love and love's disport
Took largely, of their mutual guilt the seal,
The solace of their sin; till dewy sleep
Oppress'd them, wearied with their amorous play.
Look at the pictures you’ve been given. The images are pictorial representations of the biblical Garden of Eden.

- What do you notice?
- What is it like for the animals, and for the people?
- What does the artist want you to understand?

Read the passage from ‘Genesis’ (the first book of The Bible).

a) What do you notice about the different roles of man and woman?
b) What are your observations about the relationship between man and woman?
c) What is the nature of the serpent?
d) What causes the Fall?

Look at the passage from book four of Paradise Lost, from before the Fall.

- How is Eve described physically?
- What traits of her personality can you infer from her description?
- How would you describe her relationship with Adam?

Now read the passage from book nine of Paradise Lost, where Eve persuades Adam to eat the forbidden fruit.

- How is Eve described now, and what is her relationship with Adam?
- How does the Garden respond to what Adam and Eve do?
- What is the first result of the Fall, and how is this different from before the Fall?
- How does the presentation of the world in the poem change, following Adam and Eve’s actions?