

Handout 5-A

Annotating the Transfiguration

Directions: Below you will find the story of the Transfiguration as recorded in the Gospels of Matthew, Luke, and Mark. First, read the passages from each Gospel quietly on your own. Then work with a small group of classmates to annotate the text as follows:

1. Highlight any information that is identical (or nearly identical) in all three Gospels.
2. Underline any information that seems to be unique to one of the Gospels.

When you are finished annotating the text, discuss these questions with your small group and be prepared to share your responses with the class:

1. What are some of the most noticeable similarities and differences between these three passages?
2. Why do you think these similarities and differences exist? Consider the story of each Gospel's formation when formulating your hypothesis.
3. What additional information or resources would you need in order to prove your hypothesis?

The Transfiguration		
Matthew 17:1–8	Mark 9:2–8	Luke 9:28–36
<p>¹ After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.</p> <p>² And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light.</p> <p>³ And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him.</p> <p>⁴ Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, “Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”</p> <p>⁵ While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud cast a shadow over them, then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.”</p> <p>⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate and were very much afraid.</p> <p>⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Rise, and do not be afraid.”</p> <p>⁸ And when the disciples raised their eyes, they saw no one else but Jesus alone.</p>	<p>² After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them,</p> <p>³ and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them.</p> <p>⁴ Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses, and they were conversing with Jesus.</p> <p>⁵ Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, “Rabbi, it is good that we are here! Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”</p> <p>⁶ He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified.</p> <p>⁷ Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; then from the cloud came a voice, “This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.”</p> <p>⁸ Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them.</p>	<p>²⁸ About eight days after he said this, he took Peter, John, and James and went up the mountain to pray.</p> <p>²⁹ While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white.</p> <p>³⁰ And behold, two men were conversing with him, Moses and Elijah,</p> <p>³¹ who appeared in glory and spoke of his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem.</p> <p>³² Peter and his companions had been overcome by sleep, but becoming fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him.</p> <p>³³ As they were about to part from him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good that we are here; let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” But he did not know what he was saying.</p> <p>³⁴ While he was still speaking, a cloud came and cast a shadow over them, and they became frightened when they entered the cloud.</p> <p>³⁵ Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my chosen Son; listen to him.”</p> <p>³⁶ After the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. They fell silent and did not at that time tell anyone what they had seen.</p>

Handout 5-B

Synoptic Gospel Comparison

Gospel	Mark	Matthew	Luke
Date			
Author			
Audience			
Portrayal of Jesus			