



Use a poem as a launching point for a discussion on living life fully.

Search the Internet for the poem "The Dash" by Linda Ellis, and read it to your teenagers. Then pass out pens and paper and have kids each write what they'd like to have said about them at their own funeral.

Ask a few kids to read theirs out loud. After the readings ask if anyone has ever really thought about a world without their presence. Ask how old they pictured themselves at their funeral. Remind them that there are no guarantees in life, and no one knows when they will die. Talk about what it means to "live their dash." Have them come up with things they can do to grow closer to God, and to live out their dash in God's will.

margie schramke / Blairsville, Georgia