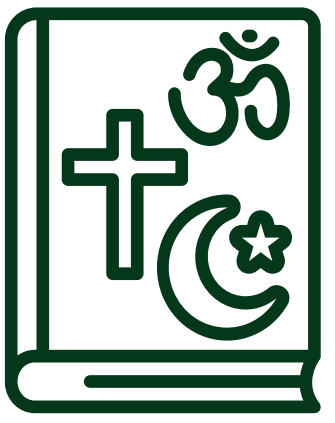


Read like a...



The study of sacred texts is a form of scholarship that has evolved over millennia. Knowledge of the choice of genre, author and audience, interpretation and ways of reading are all part of a scholarly approach to reading sacred texts. Reading the text involves engaging in enquiry and discussion about the meaning and significance of the text for those for whom it is sacred.

The LAaSMO model is one way that scholars engage with sacred texts.

THEOLOGIAN

L



Identify literary genre of writing

What genre of writing has the author used? (eg. poetry, letters, laws and guidance, historical, memoirs, metaphorical, prophetic etc.) What sort of truths does this literary form convey?

Aa



Clarify author and audience

Who wrote this?
Who did they write it for?
What was happening at that time in that place?
What was life like?

S



Identify the setting

What is the world that the passage is set in? (Is it real or fictional?)
What places, people and customs are mentioned?

M



Interpret the meaning

What do you think the author was trying to say to their community – about God, about human life, about the world?

O



Identify how this all links to our world today

How might interpretations have changed over time? What might people today think of the story? Think of differing interpretations and responses, including religious and non-religious views and contrasting ideas within the religion.

"The unexamined life is not worth living" (Socrates)