

ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING Worksheet

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Verse 1

All creatures of our God and King
Lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam!

Refrain

O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Verse 2

Thou rushing wind that art so strong
Ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Thou rising moon, in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice!

Refrain

Verse 3

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
Make music for thy Lord to hear,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Thou fire so masterful and bright,
That givest man both warmth and light.

Refrain

Verse 4

Dear mother earth, who day by day
Unfoldest blessings on our way,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
Let them His glory also show.

Refrain

Verse 5

And all ye men of tender heart,
Forgiving others, take your part,
O sing ye! Alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God and on Him cast your care!

Refrain

Verse 6

And thou most kind and gentle Death,
Waiting to hush our latest breath,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Thou leadest home the child of God,
And Christ our Lord the way hath trod.

Refrain

Verse 7

Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship Him in humbleness,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One!

Refrain

Vocabulary In one or two words define the following terms from the poem.

Verse 1: Alleluia

Verse 2: rejoice

Verse 3: masterful

Verse 4: blessings

Verse 5: tender, cast

Verse 6: hath, trod

Verse 7: humbleness

Word Pictures Word pictures is another way of saying *imagery*. *Imagery* or *figurative language* helps us form a picture of what the author is trying to present. Discuss what these word pictures mean and, perhaps, draw your idea of the *imagery* or *figurative language* the author uses!

Verse 1: sun with golden beam

Verse 2: rushing wind, clouds that sail, lights of evening

Verse 3: flowing water

Verse 4: flowers and fruits

Verse 5: tender heart

Verse 6: hush our latest breath, the way hath trod

Mechanics Verbally discuss

Who is the speaker?

What does the poem reveal about the speaker's character?

Is the speaker addressing someone in particular or is it to anyone?

Does the poem have a setting?

Is the poem about a particular event? Is the event past or present? If it is about a past event, does the remembrance of the event have a particular meaning to the speaker?

Is the theme of the poem stated directly or indirectly?

What point of view or perspective is the speaker?

How did you respond to the poem when you read it the first time?

Comprehension Questions Verbally discuss

Verse 1

The author mentions three different things that should give praise. What are they?

How does the author describe each of these three things? Do you agree with how the author described them?

Who should be praised? Why?

Verse 2

The author mentions four different things that should give praise. What are they?

How does the author describe each of these four things? Do you agree with how the author described them?

What should these things find? Why?

Verse 3

The author mentions two different things that should give praise. What are they?

How does the author describe each of these two things? Do you agree with how the author described them?

What is the first item to do?

What duties or tasks does the second item perform?

Verse 4

The author mentions three different things that should give praise. What are they?

How does the author describe each of these three things? Do you agree with how the author described them?

What does the first item do? What do the second and third item do?

Verse 5

Explain, “all ye men of tender heart.” What does this mean?

Why do you think the author says “forgiving others”?

According to the author, what should those individuals do that have “pain and sorrow”? Do you agree? Why?

Verse 6

Who or what is the author singing to in the first line of this verse?

What is it waiting to do?

Where does this lead some to?

Who went before us?

Do you think the author is afraid or concerned about death? Why?

Verse 7

Who or what is the author calling on in the first line?

Who are they to bless? How can they bless this Person? What does that mean?

What Does the Bible Say?

Find Scripture proofs for each of the assertions or statements made for each of the five verses and the refrain.

Compare/contrast this poem with Psalm 69:34, “Let the heaven and earth praise Him, the seas, and every thing that moveth therein.”

The Author/Poet

Based on what you have studied about this poem so far, would you guess that the author was a Christian or a humanist? How did you arrive at your decision?

The author's name for this poem or lyric is Francis of Assisi (1182-1226). He was born in 1182 and died 4 October 1226 in Assisi, Italy. He had two dreams calling him to the cross. One while living the life of "pleasure" and the other while being a soldier in Apulia. The Benedictines gave him a church in Assisi that became the home of the Order of Franciscan friars which he founded. He made a pilgrimage to Palestine in 1223. *All Creatures of our God and King* was written *circa* 1225 (Cantico di fratre sole, Song of Brother Sun) shortly before his death and the poem was not published for almost 400 years.

Geography

Locate Italy on a globe, map and atlas.

Challenge Locate Assisi, Apulia, and the Apennines on a map or in an atlas.

Compare/contrast the weather with these areas and your own for one week.

Make an Italian meal for your family .

Activities

- 1) Read Psalms 65-68.
- 2) Make your own book! Without making an image of Christ, draw pictures representing each verse and the refrain. (Note: that will be eight different illustrations). With construction paper and other items readily available at home, make a title page with the name of the song and the author's name which will be your book's cover. You may want to illustrate your cover and include this poem in your book.
- 3) Make your own play! Re-enact with your siblings or friends the message in this poem. Keep it lively, simple, and short. You may want to end your play with singing a rousing chorus of this poem or reading Scripture verses. Videotape your creation.
- 4) Radio Drama! With a handheld tape recorder, create your own radio show dramatizing the importance of this poem reported.
- 5) Be a Reporter! Either with your family camcorder or with a handheld tape recorder, "interview" various items connected with this poem (e.g., all creatures, the sun, the moon, rushing wind, clouds, lights of evening, flowing water, fire, earth, tender hearted men, sorrowing men, death, etc.). In order to have the fast paced style of a reporter, watch and/or listen to the news with your parents' permission. Keep the interviews lively, quick, and to the point.

Remain objective! Being objective means just reporting the facts and not giving your opinion of the situation.

6) What is one of the things you most enjoy? Is it literature? math? science? sports? cooking? Take that area of interest and relate that to this poem. If you enjoy dance, for example, develop a dance routine that physically expresses the sentiments of this poem. If you enjoy shop, create something out of wood that helps to clarify this poem. Do you enjoy creating stories? Write a story based on any time period you desire that expresses the sentiments of this poem. Do you enjoy creating things in the kitchen? Make an ancient meal from this time or develop your own meal that symbolizes the many different points this poem makes.

7) Poster. Create a poster illustrating the message of *All Creatures of Our God and King*.

8) Scavenger Hunt. Go to the library to learn what you can about Francis of Assisi and share it with your family. If possible, discover the story behind this poem.