

AND DOST THOU SAY Worksheet

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Verse 1

And dost Thou say, "Ask what thou wilt"?
Lord, I would seize the golden hour;
I pray to be released from guilt,
And freed from sin and Satan's power.

Verse 2

More of Thy presence, Lord, impart,
More of Thine image let me bear;
Erect Thy throne within my heart,
And reign without a rival there.

Verse 3

Give me to read my pardon sealed,
And from Thy joy to draw my strength;
To have Thy boundless love revealed
In all its height, and breadth, and length.

Verse 4

Grant these requests—I ask no more,
But to Thy care the rest resign;
Living or dying, rich or poor,
All shall be well if Thou art mine.

Vocabulary

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

Verse 1: wilt, seize, released, guilt

Verse 2: impart, erect, reign, rival

Verse 3: pardon, boundless

Verse 4: resign

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: seize golden hour

Verse 2: Erect Thy throne within my heart

Verse 3: height, and breadth, and length

Verse 4: Grant these requests

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

What does “Ask what thou wilt” mean?

What does the author mean by “seize the golden hour”? How can you hold time?

What does the author want to be released from? Why do you think this is important?

Explain and discuss: “freed from sin and Satan’s power”?

Verse 2

What is the author requesting in the first line? Explain.

What does the author mean by “image” in the second line?

How can a “throne” be built in someone’s heart? How is this possible? Is it even desirable? Explain.

Explain and discuss: “reign without a rival there.”

Verse 3

Is the author actually talking about a piece of paper when referring to a “pardon”? If not, what is the author referring to?

Where does the author draw strength? Have you ever thought about it in those terms before?

Explain and discuss: “Thy boundless love revealed, In all its height, and breadth, and length.”

Verse 4

What is the author requesting in the first line? Why do you think the author is not asking for anything else?

What does the author mean by “care”? What does the author do with “care”?

What do you think of when you read line 3 in this verse, “Living or dying, rich or poor”?

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.

How does the Bible define love? For Scripture verses help, check out this internet web page at <http://www.lovetolearnplace.com/SpecialDays/Valentines/Bible.html>

Compare/contrast this poem with 1 Kings 3:5, “In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee.”

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 John Newton (1725-1807). He was born 24 July 1725, in London, England, and died 21 December 1807, in London, England. He was buried at St. Mary Woolnoth Church, Lombard Street, London. When Mr. Newton was 7, his mother died. A few years later, at the age of 11, John went to sea with his father. He began to live his life recklessly and was, for 15 months, a mistreated slave in South Africa. It would seem two experiences heavily influenced Mr. Newton in becoming a Christian. The first was reading Thomas à Kempis and the second was his experience steering a ship on a wild sea where he almost lost his life at age 23. Afterwards, he spent six years maturing in the faith while being the captain of a slave ship. Later, Mr. Newton went to Liverpool studying Hebrew and Greek and meeting with George Whitefield, Wesley and formed life a long friendship with William Cowper. He became ordained and a curate at Olney, Buckinghamshire, in 1764. He would write under the *pseudonym* Omicron. What is most telling about this man is his epitaph which reads:

JOHN NEWTON, Clerk
Once an infidel and libertine
A servant of slaves in Africa,
Was, by the rich mercy of our Lord and Saviour
JESUS CHRIST,
restored, pardoned, and appointed to preach
the Gospel which he had long laboured to destroy.
He ministered,
Near sixteen years in Olney, in Bucks,
And twenty-eight years in this Church.

Epitaph Vocabulary: infidel, libertine, restored, pardoned, appointed

Geography

Locate London, England, South Africa, and Liverpool on a globe, map and atlas.

Challenge Can you find Olney, Buckinghamshire (England) on a map or in an atlas?

Compare/contrast the weather of England and South Africa with your own weather for one week.

Make a meal from England and/or South Africa to serve your family.

Activities

1) Be a detective! Go to the library to learn more about John Newton, Thomas à Kempis, George Whitefield, Wesley and William Cowper. Why do you think individuals like Thomas à Kempis, Whitefield, Wesley and William Cowper would have such a huge impact on Mr. Newton? If these individuals were your next door neighbors, do you think they would have an impact on you?

2) Write your own book! Without making an image of Christ, draw pictures representing each verse. (Note: that will be four 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) Create your own play! Re-enact with your siblings or friends the message discussed 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 concerns this poem reported.

5) Be a Reporter! Either with your family camcorder or with a handheld tape recorder, "interview" various individuals connected with this Mr. Newton's life (e.g., parents, fellow sailors, Thomas à Kempis, George Whitefield, Wesley, William Cowper, members of Mr. Newton's church, 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 *And Dost Thou Say*.

9) Scavenger Hunt. Go to the library and learn what you can about John Newton and share it with your family. If possible, discover the story behind this poem.