

DARE TO BE A DANIEL Worksheet

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Verse 1

Standing by a purpose true,
Heeding God's command,
Honor them, the faithful few!
All hail to Daniel's band!

Refrain

Dare to be a Daniel,
Dare to stand alone!
Dare to have a purpose firm!
Dare to make it known.

Verse 2

Many mighty men are lost
Daring not to stand,
Who for God had been a host
By joining Daniel's band.

Refrain

Verse 3

Many giants, great and tall,
Stalking through the land,
Headlong to the earth would fall,
If met by Daniel's band.

Refrain

Verse 4

Hold the Gospel banner high!
On to vict'ry grand!
Satan and his hosts defy,
And shout for Daniel's band.

Refrain

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

Verse 1: dare, purpose, Heeding, honor, hail

Verse 2: host

Verse 3: Stalking, Headlong

Verse 4: Gospel, banner, defy

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: Standing by a purpose true, Heeding God's command

Refrain: Dare to be a Daniel

Verse 2: mighty men are lost

Verse 3: Stalking through the land, Headlong ... fall

Verse 4: Hold the Gospel banner high, Satan and his hosts defy

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 the author mean by stating “Standing by a purpose true”?

It almost seems as if the author views an army taking commands. Do you agree/disagree? Why?

Why should we “Honor them, the faithful few”? Defend your answer.

Explain and discuss: “All hail to Daniel’s band!”

Refrain

What does the term “refrain” mean and what is the reader supposed to do with it?

What does the author mean by “dare”?

Who was Daniel and why should we imitate him?

Do you agree with the author that it is important to have a “purpose firm.” Defend your answer.

Why should one’s purpose be made known?

Verse 2

The author asserts that “mighty men are lost.” Can you give any historical examples supporting the author’s claim?

What did these “mighty men” fail to do? (see line two in this verse)

What, exactly, is a host and why do you think the author holds this to be important?

Verse 3

Why do you think the author used the term “giants”? What do you think of when you hear this word?

Explain and discuss: “Stalking through the land.” (Does this remind you of any nursery rhymes like Jack and the Beanstalk?)

What do you think of when you hear the term “stalking.” Do you think this was a good/bad use of the word? Why?

What happens to these giants in the third line of this verse? (Does this remind you of any nursery rhymes like Jack and Jill?)

Who exactly do you think Daniel’s band is?

Verse 4

Explain: “Hold the Gospel banner high”? Is this a physical thing? (See 2 Cor. 10:5)

The author holds it to be important to defy Satan and his hosts (or workers). Why? Do you agree or disagree? Why?

Why should we shout?

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.

Read about Daniel. Can you think of others that stood their ground?

Compare/contrast this poem in relation to Daniel 1:8, “But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.”

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 Philip Paul Bliss (1838-1876). He was born on 9 July 1838, in Clearfield County, Pennsylvania, and died on 29 December 1876, Ashtabula, Ohio. Tragically, Mr. Bliss and his wife died in a horrible train accident that was caused by a collapsed bridge. He had survived the initial impact but went back into the flames to rescue his wife. Mr. Bliss wrote this song for his Sunday school class at the First Congregational Church in Chicago, Illinois. Interestingly enough, it is reported that the Sultan of Turkey would not allow this song to be sung.

Geography

Locate Pennsylvania, Ohio, Chicago, Illinois, and Turkey on a globe, map and atlas.

Challenge Locate Clearfield County, Pennsylvania on a map or in an atlas.

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

Make a meal from one or all of these places for your family.

Activities

1) Read about Daniel in the Bible. Who else would you identify as being part of Daniel’s Band either in the Bible, in history or presently?

2) Make your own book! Without making an image of Christ, draw pictures representing each verse and the refrain. (Note: that will be six 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 for your book.

3) Make your own play! Re-enact with your siblings or friends the event 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 historical event this poem reported.

5) Be a Reporter! Either with your family camcorder or with a handheld tape recorder, “interview” various individuals that you hold as being apart of Daniel’s Band (e.g., Gideon, Sir Francis Drake, the Pilgrims, WWII veterans, crusaders, explorers, theologians, 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) Design a Recruitment Poster: “Daniel wants YOU !!” You may even want to design pamphlets that explains to the potential recruit as to WHY they should be apart of Daniel’s Band. Perhaps you may want to incorporate some of the themes that the military uses (“Be an army of one,” etc.) and come up with a jingle for your recruitment center.

8) Movies. Watch the film *Cromwell* (with Richard Harris). Oliver Cromwell, with only 4% of the population, accomplished a great deal in his life.

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