

Fairest Lord Jesus Worksheet

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Verse 1

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
O Thou of God and man the Son,
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy and crown.

Verse 2

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Verse 3

Fair is the sunshine,
Fairer still the moonlight,
And all the twinkling starry host;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels heaven can boast.

Verse 4

All fairest beauty, heavenly and earthly,
Wondrously, Jesus, is found in Thee;
None can be nearer, fairer or dearer,
Than Thou, my Savior, art to me.

Verse 5

Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
Now and forever more be Thine.

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

Verse 1: Fairest, cherish, honor, glory

Verse 2: garb, woeful

Verse 3: twinkling, host, boast

Verse 4: Wondrously, art

Verse 5: Lord, adoration, Thine

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, without making an image of God, draw your idea of the *imagery* or *figurative language* the author uses!

Verse 1: my soul's glory, joy and crown

Verse 2: meadows, woodlands, Robed in the blooming garb of spring, makes the woeful heart to sing

Verse 3: sunshine, moonlight, twinkling starry host

Verse 4: None can be nearer, fairer or dearer

Verse 5: Glory and honor, praise, adoration

Mechanics are the nuts and bolts of a poem. Verbally discuss.

Who is the speaker? (Does the speaker have a specific personality or has the author remained in the background so the message of the poem will be more clear?)

What does the poem reveal about the speaker's character? (Sometimes, poems reveal nothing about the speaker's personal thoughts, feelings, or attitudes. Yet, the poem may demonstrate those character traits that are important to the author like courage, loyalty, perseverance, etc.)

Is the speaker addressing someone in particular or is it to anyone? (Sometimes poems are not directed to anyone in particular, but to anyone that may read it.)

Does the poem have a setting? (Does the author tell where the poem occurs? Is the poem about a specific event?)

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? (Some poems are straightforward and are meant to be taken literally. In songs, the theme may be presented in the refrain or in the last few lines. Sometimes the theme is a little bit more difficult to discern as it is made with figurative language or symbols.)

What point of view or perspective is the speaker? (What meaning do you think the poem has for the author?)

How did you respond to the poem when you read it the first time? (Did your thoughts and feelings change after you took time to study it?)

Comprehension Questions Verbally discuss

Verse 1: What does the author mean by the term "fairest"? Who will the author cherish? Why do you think this is so? Did you notice the use of the terms "Thou" and "Thee"? Why do you think the author used these terms? Explain and discuss: "Thou, my soul's glory, joy and crown."

Verse 2: How are the meadows and the woodlands described? What did you think of the phrase, "Robed in the blooming garb of spring"? Did this imagery help you to visualize what the author was talking about? Who is fairer? purer? Who makes the "woeful heart to sing"?

Verse 3: How does the author describe the sunshine, moon light and starry host? Who is shining brighter and purer? Do you agree / disagree with the author? Why?

Verse 4: Who does the author describe as the "fairest beauty" in heaven and earth? Explain and discuss: "None can be nearer, fairer or dearer, Than Thou, my Savior, art to me." Do you agree / disagree with the author? Why? Did you notice the author's use of the term "art"? Why do you think the author used that term?

Verse 5: Who is the Lord of all nations? What is meant by "Son of God and Son of Man"? Is anyone stronger than Him? Did you notice the use of the term "Thine"? Why do you think the author used this term? What does the author mean by "Glory and honor, praise, adoration, Now and forever more be Thine"?

Did this historical event or message become more real to you after reading this poem? Why?

After reading this poem, what character traits did you think of? What does the Bible have to say about these character traits? What does this poem tell you about the author?

What Does the Bible Say?

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

Discuss this poem in light of ...

Hebrews 1:3, “Who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His Person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.”

John 1:3,4, “All things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life; and the life was the light of men.”

Ephesians 3:9, “And to make all men see what is the fellowship of mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ.”

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 lyrics were written by German Jesuits in the 17th century and published in 1677 in the *Münster Gesangbuch*. In 1873, Joseph August Seiss (1823-1904) translated the words from German to English. Seiss was born 18 March 1823 in Graceham, Maryland, and died 20 June 1904 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This tune is also referred to as the “Crusader’s Hymn,” Silesian folk song.

Geography

Locate Germany, Maryland, and Pennsylvania on a globe, map and atlas.

Challenge Locate Graceham (MD) and Philadelphia (PA) on a map or in an atlas.

Compare/contrast the weather from Germany with your own for one week.

Make a German meal for your family.

Activities

1) Make your own book! Without making an image of Christ, draw pictures representing each verse. (Note: that will be five 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.

2) Make your own play! Re-enact with your siblings and/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.

3) Radio Drama! With a handheld tape recorder, create your own radio show dramatizing the message of this poem.

4) Be a Reporter! Either with your family camcorder or with a handheld tape recorder, “interview” various individuals connected with this poem (e.g., angels, heads of nations either current or past, the serpent, Mary, sinners, repentant sinner, scientists, parents, statesmen, Alfred the Great, Charlemagne, crusaders, WWI and WWII soldiers, 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.

5) 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.

6) Poster. Create a poster illustrating the the author’s view of the impact of *Fairest Lord Jesus*.

7) Scavenger Hunt. Go to the library to learn what you can about Joseph August Seiss (1823-1904) and share it with your family. If possible, discover the story behind this poem.