

GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN Worksheet

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Refrain

Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.

Verse 1

While shepherds kept their watching
Over silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light.

Refrain

Verse 2

The shepherds feared and trembled,
When lo! above the earth,
Rang out the angels chorus
That hailed the Savior's birth.

Refrain

Verse 3

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.

Refrain

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

Verse 1: flocks, shone

Verse 2: lo, hailed

Verse 3: lowly, manger, humble, salvation

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!

Refrain: tell it on the mountain

Verse 1: silent flocks

Verse 2: shepherds feared and trembled

Verse 3: lowly manger

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

Refrain

What should be told?
Where should it be told?

Verse 1

What were the shepherds doing?
What time of day was it?
What was in the sky?

Verse 2

How did the shepherds react to this light?
What happened “above the earth”?
Who made up this chorus?
What were they singing about?

Verse 3

Where is the setting for this verse?
What happened?
What was sent and who sent it?
Explain and discuss the last line.

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.

Relate this poem to Luke 2:8,9, “And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the LORD came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.”

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 unknown as it is an old spiritual. John Wesley Work, Jr. (1872-1925) was instrumental in collecting, performing and preserving African American folk music. He was born 6 August 1872, in Nashville, Tennessee, and died 7 September 1925, Nashville, Tennessee. In 1895 and 1898, he graduated from Fisk University (A.B. 1895, M.A. 1898). He taught Latin and Greek at Fisk and was the chairman of the Latin and History Departments in 1906. From 1923 until his death, Mr. Work was president of Roger Williams University in Nashville, Tennessee.

Geography

Locate Africa and Nashville, Tennessee on a globe, map and atlas.

Compare/contrast the weather of Africa and Nashville, Tennessee with your own for one week.

Make a meal from Africa and/or Tennessee for your family.

Activities

1) Read Luke chapters 1 and 2.

2) Make your own book! Without making an image of Christ, draw pictures representing each verse and the refrain. (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) 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 connected with this poem (e.g., the shepherd, the angels, 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 before and after impact of *Go Tell it on the Mountain*.

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

9) Movies. Watch the film *King of Kings*. (Note: Scripture correction will be required).