

This is My Father's World Worksheet

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Verse 1

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the
spheres.

This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
His hand the wonders wrought.

Verse 2

This is my Father's world, the birds their carols
raise,

The morning light, the lily white, declare their
Maker's praise.

This is my Father's world: He shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass;
He speaks to me everywhere.

Verse 3

This is my Father's world. O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is
the ruler yet.

This is my Father's world: why should my heart be
sad?

The Lord is King; let the heavens ring!
God reigns; let the earth be glad!

Verse 4

This is my Father's world, dreaming, I see His face.
I ope my eyes, and in glad surprise cry, "The Lord is
in this place."

This is my Father's world, from the shining courts
above,
The Beloved One, His Only Son,
Came—a pledge of deathless love.

Verse 5

This is my Father's world, should my heart be ever
sad?

The lord is King—let the heavens ring. God
reigns—let the earth be glad.

This is my Father's world. Now closer to Heaven
bound,
For dear to God is the earth Christ trod.
No place but is holy ground.

Verse 6

This is my Father's world. I walk a desert lone.
In a bush ablaze to my wondering gaze God makes
His glory known.

This is my Father's world, a wanderer I may roam
Whate'er my lot, it matters not,
My heart is still at home.

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

Verse 1: spheres, wonders, wrought

Verse 2: carols, declare, praise, fair

Verse 3: ne'er, oft, reigns

Verse 4: ope, Beloved, pledge

Verse 5: bound, trod, holy

Verse 6: desert, lone, glory

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: listening ears, nature sings, rocks and trees, skies and seas

Verse 2: birds their carols raise, morning light, lily white, rustling grass

Verse 3: why should my heart be sad?, let the heavens ring!, let the earth be glad!

Verse 4: shining courts above, a pledge

Verse 5: let the heavens ring, let the earth be glad

Verse 6: bush ablaze, wondering gaze

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: According to the author, Who owns the world? Do you agree / disagree? Why? What does the author rest himself in? Why would this be comforting? Who "wrought" the wonders of this world?

Verse 2: Who raise carols? What does the morning light and the lily declare? How does God speak to the author?

Verse 3: What does the author not want to forget? Explain and discuss: "That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet." Why should the heavens ring and the earth be glad?

Verse 4: Who is the "Beloved One"? When the author opens his eyes, Who is there? Who was the pledge? How does the author describe this pledge?

Verse 5: Who rules the earth? According to the author, how should the earth respond to this reign? Do you agree/disagree? Why? Explain and discuss: “For dear to God is the earth Christ trod, No place but is holy ground.”

Verse 6: Explain and discuss: “Whate’er my lot, it matters not, My heart is still at home.” Why do you think the author sees God’s majesty in the desert or “in a bush ablaze”?

Did the message of this poem become more real to you after reading it? Why? It would seem that the author is very grateful to his Creator and all the things that he has done. Do you think we should be grateful to the Creator for His creation? 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 the Bible Say?

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

Discuss this poem in light of ...

Psalms 19:1, “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth His handywork.”

I Corinthians 10:26 ... For the earth is the LORD’s and the fulness thereof.

Psalms 24:1 ... The earth is the LORD’s, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell 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 name of the author for this poem or lyric is Maltbie Davenport Babcock (1858-1901). He was born 3 August 1858 in Syracuse, New York, and died 18 May 1901 in Naples, Italy. Babcock demonstrated remarkable ability in music, sports, impersonations, and singing. It is thought that if he had not chosen to go into the ministry, he would have made an excellent musician. While pastoring Brown Memorial Church in Baltimore, Maryland, he would frequently counsel students from Johns Hopkins University. Prior to going out to take walks in the woods, Babcock would state “I’m going out to see my Father’s world.” His untimely death in the Holy Lands from brucellosis caused his wife, Catherine, to collect and publish many of his writings.

Geography

Locate New York and Italy on a globe, map and atlas.

Challenge Locate Syracuse (NY) and Naples (Italy) on a map or in an atlas.

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

Make an Italian 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 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 in your book.

2) Make 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.

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 or objects connected with this poem (e.g., deserts, woodlands, meadows, stars/sun/moon, animals, insects, Christian scientists, Adam, trees, flowers, 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 *This is My Father's World*.

7) Scavenger Hunt. Go to the library to learn what you can about Maltbie Davenport Babcock (1858-1901) and share it with your family. If possible, discover the story behind this poem.