

SPEAK, O LORD, THY SERVANT HEARETH Worksheet

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Verse 1

Speak, O Lord, Thy servant heareth,
To Thy Word I now give heed;
Life and spirit Thy Word beareth,
All Thy Word is true indeed.
Death's dread pow'r in me is rife;
Jesus, may Thy Word of Life
Fill my soul with love's strong fervor
That I cling to Thee forever.

Verse 2

Oh, what blessing to be near Thee
And to hearken to Thy voice;
May I ever love and fear Thee
That Thy Word may be my choice!
Oft were hardened sinners, Lord,
Struck with terror by Thy Word;
But to him who for sin grieveth
Comfort sweet and hope it giveth.

Verse 3

Lord, Thy words are waters living
Where I quench my thirsty need;
Lord, Thy words are bread life-giving,
On Thy words my soul doth feed.
Lord, Thy words shall be my light
Through death's vale and dreary night;
Yea, they are my sword prevailing
And my cup of joy unailing.

Verse 4

Precious Jesus, I beseech Thee,
May Thy words take root in me;
May this gift from heav'n enrich me
So that I bear fruit for Thee!
Take them never from my heart
Till I see Thee as Thou art,
When in heav'nly bliss and glory
I shall greet Thee and adore Thee.

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

Verse 1: heed, beareth, dread, rife, fervor, cling

Verse 2: hearken, Oft, grieveth

Verse 3: quench, doth, vale, dreary, prevailing

Verse 4: beseech, enrich, bliss, adore

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: I cling

Verse 2: hardened sinners, Struck with terror, Comfort sweet

Verse 3: quench my thirsty need

Verse 4: take root, bear fruit

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

To what Word is the author listening to? How do you know?

What is rife in the author?

What is the author asking for in this verse?

Verse 2

Explain and discuss: “what blessing to be near Thee.”

What does the author mean by “hardened sinners”?

What emotion do “hardened sinners” experience? (*Hint: Line 6*)

The author holds that “comfort sweet” is one of the rewards for those that repent. Do you agree/disagree? Why?

Verse 3

How can words quench one’s thirst?

What does the author mean by the phrase “Thy words are bread life-giving”?

The author also says words are “light.” How can this be?

To what “sword” is the author referring?

Verse 4

What, exactly, does the author mean by “beseech” in the first line?

Plants and trees take root. Explain how words take root.

Again, plants and trees bear fruit. Explain the phrase “I bear fruit for Thee.” Can you relate this concept with 2 Corinthians 10:5?

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.

Compare / contrast this poem to the following Scripture verses.

1 Samuel 3:10, “And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.”

2 Corinthians 10:5, “Casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of 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 author's name for this poem or lyric is Anna Sophia of Hessen-Darmstadt (1638-1683). She was born on 17 December 1638, in Marburg, Germany, and died 13 December 1683, in Quedlinburg, Germany.

Geography

Locate Germany on a globe, map and atlas.

Challenge Locate Hessen-Darmstadt, Marburg, and Quedlinburg on a map or in an atlas. All are in Germany.

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

Make a meal from Germany for your family.

Activities

1) Scavenger Hunt! Go to the library to learn more about Anna Sophia of Hessen-Darmstadt (1638-1683). If possible, discover the story behind this poem.

2) Make 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 for your book.

3) Write your own play! Re-enact with your siblings or friends the message in this poem. You may need to look to historical personages and write a story around that person or you may just want to create a person in the future. 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 message of this poem.

5) Be a reporter! Either with your family camcorder or with a handheld tape recorder, "interview" various individuals that have lived up to the message of this poem (e.g., parents, family members, Alfred the Great, Charlemagne, Oliver Cromwell, Patrick Henry, 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/Card. Create a poster or a card illustrating the message of this poem.