

AWAY IN A MANGER Worksheet
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Verse 1

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

Verse 3

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

Verse 2

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes;
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle til morning is nigh.

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

Verse 1: manger, crib

Verse 2: lowing, nigh

Verse 3: Thee, Thy, tender

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: stars in the sky looked down

Verse 2: cattle are lowing; morning is nigh

Verse 3: fit us for heaven

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 is a manger and why was it used instead of a crib? What are looking down from the sky?

Verse 2: What are the cattle doing? How does the baby respond? Why do you think the baby responds this way? Who does the author say s/he loves? Where is this Person? What does the author want this Person to do? Why?

Verse 3: What does the author ask in the first line? Why do you think the author asks this question? What does the author ask in lines 2 and 3? Explain: “And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.”

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 five verses and the refrain.

What does the bible have to say about love? duty? How are these two things related?

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 which is also called Luther’s Cradle Hymn is Martin Luther (1483-1546). He was born 10 November 1483, in Eisleben, Germany, and died 18 February 1546, in Eisleben, Germany. Interestingly, he was buried in Wittenberg, Germany. Martin Luther is credited with beginning the Protestant Reformation 1517. This 1529 poem is referred to as the “Battle Hymn of the Reformation.” The poem was translated from German to English by Frederic H. Hedge in 1853.

Geography

Locate Germany on a globe, map and atlas.

Challenge Locate Eisleben (Germany) and Wittenberg (Germany) on a map or in an atlas.

Compare/contrast 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 three 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 historical event and 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 historical event and 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 / past, Joseph, Mary, repentant sinner, 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 *Away in a Manger*.

7) Scavenger Hunt. Go to the library to learn what you can about Martin Luther and share it with your family. If possible, discover the story behind this poem.