

CHRISTIANS, AWAKE, SALUTE THE HAPPY MORN Worksheet

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Verse 1

Christians, awake, salute the happy morn
Whereon the Savior of the world was born.
Rise to adore the mystery of love
Which hosts of angels chanted from above,
With them the joyful tidings first begun
Of God incarnate and the virgin's Son.

Verse 2

Then to the watchful shepherds it was told,
Who heard th'angelic herald's voice, "Behold,
I bring good tidings of a Savior's birth
To you and all the nations of the earth;
This day hath God fulfilled His promised Word;
This day is born a Savior, Christ the Lord."

Verse 3

He spoke; and straightaway the celestial choir
In hymns of joy, unknown before, conspire;
The praises of redeeming love they sang,
And heav'n's whole orb with alleluias rang.
God's highest glory was their anthem still,
Peace on the earth and unto men good will.

Verse 4

To Bethl'hem straight th'enlightened shepherds ran
To see the wonder God had wrought for man
And found, with Joseph and the blessed maid,
Her Son, the Savior, in a manger laid;
Then to their flocks, still praising God, return,
And their glad hearts with holy rapture burn.

Verse 5

Oh, may we keep and ponder in our mind
God's wondrous love in saving lost mankind!
Trace we the Babe, who hath retrieved our loss,
From His poor manger to His bitter cross,
Tread in His steps, assisted by His grace,
Till man's first heav'nly state again takes place.

Verse 6

Then may we hope, th'angelic hosts among,
To sing, redeemed, a glad triumphal song.
He that was born upon this joyful day
Around us all His glory shall display.
Saved by His love, incessantly we sing
Eternal praise to heav'n's almighty King.

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

Verse 1: salute, adore, mystery, chanted, incarnate

Verse 2: th', herald, saviour

Verse 3: straightaway, celestial, conspire, redeeming, orb, alleluias, anthem

Verse 4: Bethl'hem, enlightened, wrought, manger, holy rapture

Verse 5: ponder, wondrous, hath, retrieved, tread, heav'nly

Verse 6: th', hosts, redeemed, display, incessantly, eternal, heav'n's

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: Christians awake; salute; hosts of angels chanted from above; joyful tidings

Verse 2: watchful shepherds; angelic herald

Verse 3: celestial choir

Verse 4: enlightened shepherds ran; Joseph and the blessed maid

Verse 5: ponder in our mind

Verse 6: angelic hosts; glad triumphal song; incessantly we sing

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, what are Christians to do? Why? Explain and discuss: "mystery of love." What did the angels do?

Verse 2: The shepherds are described as "watchful." Why? What did they hear? What was fulfilled that day?

Verse 3: Explain and discuss: "In hymns of joy, unknown before, conspire; The praises of redeeming love they sang." Why would "heav'n's whole orb with alleluias" ring?

Verse 4: How are the shepherds described? Why? What did they do? Where did they go? What did they find?

Verse 5: What are we to keep and ponder? Why? Explain and discuss: "Trace we the Babe, who hath retrieved our loss, From His poor manger to His bitter cross." What does the author tell us to do in the 5th line? Why?

Verse 6: Explain and discuss: "To sing, redeemed, a glad triumphal song." What are we to sing incessantly? 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 five verses and the refrain.

Review what the Gospel has to say about the nativity and Isaiah 53.

What does the Bible have to say about duty? honor? love?

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 John Byrom (1691-1763). He was born 19 February 1691, Old Shambles, Manchester, England, and died 26 September 1763. Byrom is buried at Jesus Chapel, Manchester Cathedral, Manchester, England. This poem was written especially for Byrom's daughter, Dolly, for Christmas morning and was published in 1746. He attended Kings School, Chester and Cambridge. He opted not to go into the church and disappointed family members when he married his wife, Elizabeth. Eventually, he inherited the family property when his elder brother died. He is also known for writing many hymns for boys in Manchester.

Geography

Locate England, Manchester and Bethl'hem on a globe, map and atlas.

Challenge Locate Manchester on a map or in an atlas.

Compare/contrast the weather of England and/or Bethl'hem with your own for one week.

Make an English 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 event or 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, shepherds, Mary, Wise Men, repentant sinners, 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 *Christians, Awake, Salute the Happy Morn.*

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