

THE FIRST NOEL Worksheet

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Verse 1

The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay tending their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

Verse 2

They lookèd up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.

Refrain

Verse 3

And by the light of that same star
Three Wise Men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.

Refrain

Verse 4

This star drew nigh to the northwest,
Over Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay,
Right over the place where Jesus lay.

Refrain

Verse 5

Then did they know assuredly
Within that house the King did lie;
One entered it them for to see,
And found the Babe in poverty.

Refrain

Verse 6

Then entered in those Wise Men three,
Full reverently upon the knee,
And offered there, in His presence,
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

Refrain

Verse 7

Between an ox stall and an ass,
This Child truly there He was;
For want of clothing they did Him lay
All in a manger, among the hay.

Refrain

Verse 8

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
That hath made heaven and earth of naught,
And with His blood mankind hath bought.

Refrain

Verse 9

If we in our time shall do well,
We shall be free from death and hell;
For God hath prepared for us all
A resting place in general.

Refrain

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

Verse 1: Noel, tending

Refrain: Refrain

Verse 3: seek, intent

Verse 4: nigh

Verse 5: assuredly

Verse 6: reverently, myrrh, frankincense

Verse 7: stall, manger

Verse 8: accord, hath, naught

Verse 9: prepared

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 Christ, draw your idea of the *imagery* or *figurative language* the author uses!

Verse 1: angel did say; poor shepherds in fields as they lay; cold winter's night

Verse 2: saw a star

Verse 3: Three Wise Men came from country far; seek for a king

Verse 4: Over Bethlehem it [star] took its rest

Verse 6: Wise Men three; reverently upon the knee; offered ... gold and myrrh and frankincense

Verse 8: Sing praises

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, perserverance, 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 appeared to the shepherds? Why? Where were the shepherds? What was the message given to the shepherds in the “refrain”?

Verse 2: What did the shepherds see when they looked up? In which direction was it? What did this thing do?

Verse 3: What drew the three wise men? What did they determine to do? Why?

Verse 4: What direction did it now lead? What city is mentioned? What did it do over that city?

Verse 5: What did the three wise men “know”? Who or what was located in the “house”? Did the inhabitants of the “house” appear rich or poor?

Verse 6: What did the three wise men physically do when they entered the “house”? What was offered?

Verse 7: What else was in the “house”? What did the bed consist of?

Verse 8: What does the author say we are to do in the first line? Why should praises be sung? According to the author, heaven and earth was made out of what? Explain and discuss: “with His blood mankind hath bought.”

Verse 9: What do you think the author meant by the first two lines? Why? Explain and discuss: “For God hath prepared for us all, A resting place in general.”

Did this historical event or message become more real to you after reading this poem? 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 nine verses and the refrain.

Re-read the Gospel accounts of the Nativity along with Isaiah 53. Discuss how this one birth impacted history.

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?

This traditional English carol may be from the 13th century.

Geography

Locate England on a globe, map and atlas.

Challenge Locate 2 English rivers on a map or in an atlas.

Compare/contrast weather from England 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 ten 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 or 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., G.A. Henty, Agatha Christie, Christopher Columbus, Queen Isabella, 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 *The First Noel*.

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