

I LOVE TO HEAR THE STORY Worksheet

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Verse 1

I love to hear the story which angel voices tell,
How once the King of glory came down on earth to dwell.
I am both weak and sinful; but this I surely know,
The Lord came down to save me, because He loved me so.

Verse 2

I'm glad my blessed Savior was once a child like me,
To show how pure and holy His little ones might be;
And, if I try to follow His footsteps here below,
He never will forget me, because He loves me so.

Verse 3

To sing His love and mercy my sweetest songs I'll raise;
And, though I cannot see Him, I know He hears my praise;
For He has kindly promised that even I may go
To sing among His angels, because He loves me so.

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

Verse 1: dwell, love (define love from the Bible)

Verse 2: holy

Verse 3: praise

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: love to hear the story; angel voices

Verse 2: follow His footsteps

Verse 3: to sing His love and mercy

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 does the author “love” to hear? How does the author describe himself or herself?

Verse 2: What is the author grateful for? Why? What is the author attempting to do in line 3 of this verse?

Verse 3: What two things will the author sing about in line 1 of this verse? What does the author know in line 2? Did you notice the pronoun He was capitalized? Why? What has He “kindly promised”?

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 three verses.

Re-read the Gospel accounts of the Nativity along with Isaiah 53. How does the dictionary define love? Ask your neighbors how they define love. Now compare those definitions to what the Bible says love is ...

If ye love Me, keep My commandments (Jesus) ... John 14:15

He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me: and he that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him (Jesus) ... John 14:21

Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love Me, he will keep My words; and My Father will love him, and We will come unto him, and make Our abode with him (Jesus) ... John 14:23

*And hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.
1 John 2:3*

For more of how God defines love go to the internet page :

<http://www.lovetolearnplace.com/SpecialDays/Valentines/Bible.html>

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 Emily Huntington Miller (1833-1913). She was born 22 October 1833, Brooklyn, Connecticut, and died 2 November 1913, Northfield, Minnesota. This poem was published in a children's magazine entitled *The Little Corporal* (Chicago, Illinois: 1867). Miller was the daughter of a Methodist minister, married John E. Miller in 1860, and became Dean of Women Students at Northwestern University in Illinois in the 1890s.

Geography

Locate Connecticut, Minnesota, and Illinois on a globe, map and atlas.

Challenge Locate Boorklyn (Connecticut) and Northfield (Minnesota) on a map or in an atlas.

Compare/contrast weather from Connecticut, Minnesota, and/or Illinois with your own for one week. Make an American 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 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., angels, heads of nations either current or past as children, Christian men/women throughout time when they were children, 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 *I Love to Hear the Story*.

7) Scavenger Hunt. Go to the library to learn what you can about Emily Huntington Miller (1833-1913) and share it with your family. If possible, discover the story behind this poem.