

Holy, Holy, Holy Worksheet

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Verse 1

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Verse 2

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Who was, and is, and evermore shall be.

Verse 3

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Verse 4

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy Name, in earth, and sky, and sea;
Holy, holy, holy; merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

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

Verse 1: holy, Thee, blessed, Trinity

Verse 2: saints, adore, Cherubim, seraphim

Verse 3: Thy, glory, Thou, art, purity

Verse 4: Almighty

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, without drawing a picture of Christ, draw your idea of the *imagery* or *figurative language* the author uses!

Verse 1: early in the morning our song shall rise

Verse 2: saints adore, golden crowns, glassy sea

Verse 3: sinful man

Verse 4: praise Thy Name in earth and sky and sea

Mechanics 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.)
How did you respond to the poem when you read it the first time?

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: How is God described in the first line? What shall occur early in the morning? How is God described in the third line? Explain and discuss: "God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!" Why do you think the author used the term "Thee"? Why do you think the author opted to put an accent on the second "e" in "blessèd"? Why is Persons capitalized?

Verse 2: What do the saints (or Christians) do in the first line? What do they cast down? What do the cherubim and seraphim do? Explain and discuss: "Who was, and is, and evermore shall be."

Verse 3: What is meant by "though the darkness hide Thee" in the first line? (*Hint: What does darkness usually symbolize?*) What can sinful man not see? Explain and discuss: "Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee." How is God described in the first line?

Verse 4: How is God described in the first line? What shall praise Him? How is God described in the third line? Explain and discuss: "God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!"

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 four verses.

First, look up the term Trinity. Quickly, what does it mean. It has been stated that the first thing a false religion will do is attack the Trinity by mimicing it falsely or mocking it (e.g., ancient Egypt had false trinity of gods -- Isis, Osiris, and Horus while the pharaoh carried a shepherd's crook). Discuss.

What does the Bible have to say about being holy? Identify Biblical characters that were demonstrated a desire to be holy. Can you think of anyone else in history that demonstrated this character trait in the Biblical sense? What will you tell your grandchildren about being holy? How will you encourage your grandchildren in this character trait?

What does the Bible say about honoring and serving God? Identify Biblical characters that honored and served God. Can you think of anyone else in history that honored and served God. What will you tell your grandchildren honoring and serving God? How will you encourage your grandchildren in this?

Discuss this poem in light of ...

Matthew 22:37 " ... Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind."

Luke 10:27 "... Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind."

Deuteronomy 6:5 "And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might."

Mark 12:30 "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength ..."

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 Reginald Heber (1783-1826). This Anglican minister was born 21 April 1783 in Malpas, Cheshire, England, and died 3 April 1826 in Trichinopoly, Tamil Nadu, India. It would seem that he died of a cerebral hemorage while bathing.

Geography

Locate England, and India on a globe, map and atlas.

Challenge Locate Chesire (England) on a map or in an atlas.

Compare/contrast England's and or India's weather with your own for one week.

Make an English and/or an Indian 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 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 in your book.

2) Make your own play! Re-enact with your siblings or friends the 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 message of this poem.

4) Be a Reporter! Either with your family camcorder or with a handheld tape recorder, "interview" various individuals this poem could illustrate (e.g., family members, kings/presidents, Moses/Jacob/Calob/Ruth/Esther in the Bible, ministers, laborers, inventors, 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 *Holy, Holy, Holy*.

7) Scavenger Hunt. Go to the library to learn what you can about Reginald Heber (1783-1826) and share it with your family. If possible, discover the story behind this poem.