

Christian Rise and Act Thy Creed Worksheet

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1) Christian, rise and act thy creed;
Let thy prayer be in thy deed;
Seek the right, perform the true,
Raise thy works and life anew.

2) Hearts around thee sink with care;
Thou canst help their load to bear;
Thou canst bring inspiring light,
Arm their faltering wills to fight.

3) Let thine aims be hope and joy,
And thy worship God's employ;
Give Him thanks in humble zeal,
Learning all His will to feel.

4) Come, then Law divine, and reign;
Freest faith assailed in vain,
Perfect love bereft of fear,
Born in heaven and radiant here.

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

Verse 1: thy, creed

Verse 2: thee, canst, inspiring, faltering

Verse 3: thine, employ, humble, zeal

Verse 4: divine, assailed, vain, bereft, radiant

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: rise and act, Seek the right, perform the true

Verse 2: hearts ... sink, inspiring light

Verse 3: humble zeal

Verse 4: law divine, bereft of fear

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: Creed means “I believe.” What does the author mean by “Christian rise and act thy creed”? What should be in one’s “deed”? Why? What does the author tell the reader to seek? Why do you think this is recommended? Perform means to act or do something. Why do you think the author says “perform the true”? Explain and discuss, “Raise thy works and life anew.”

Verse 2: Did you notice the terms “thee,” “thou,” and “canst” in this verse? Why do you think the author used them? According to the author, what is sinking around the reader? What is causing it to sink? What does the author tell the reader to do in the third and fourth lines of this verse? Why do you think this is so?

Verse 3: Did you notice the term “thine” in this verse? Why do you think the author used it? What should be the aim of the reader according to the author? Why? Explain and discuss “Give Him thanks in humble zeal.” Why do you think the author held this to be important? Do you agree with the author?

Verse 4: Explain and discuss “Come, then law divine, and reign.” What does the author tell the reader to do in the third and fourth lines of this verse? Why do you think this is so?

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 verse.

What does the Bible have to say about courage and encouraging others? Can you give any examples from the Bible others demonstrating courage and encouraging others? Examples in 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?

The name of the author for this poem or lyric is Francis Albert Rollo Russell (1849-1914). He was born 11 July 1849 in Richmond, Surrey, England, and died 30 March 1914 in London, England. He attended Christ Church, Oxford and received his B.A., 1873. Mr. Russell was also a Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society as well as having his songs published in *Break of Day* (London) 1893.

Extra Credit: Define meteorological. What do you think the activities of a meteorological society are? Would you like to belong to one?

Geography

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

Challenge Locate Richmond, Surrey, and Oxford on a map or in an atlas.

Compare/contrast England's weather 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 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 connected with this poem (e.g., Patrick Henry, George Mason, Oliver Cromwell, Charlemagne, King Arthur, Alfred the Great, Margaret Thatcher, parents, 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 *Christian Rise and Act Thy Creed*.

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