

FAITH OF OUR FATHERS Worksheet
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Verse 1

Faith of our fathers, living still,
In spite of dungeon, fire and sword;
O how our hearts beat high with joy
Whenever we hear that glorious Word!

Refrain

Faith of our fathers, holy faith!
We will be true to Thee till death.

Verse 2

Faith of our fathers, we will strive
To win all nations unto Thee;
And through the truth that comes from God,
We all shall then be truly free.

Refrain

Verse 3

Faith of our fathers, we will love
Both friend and foe in all our strife;
And preach Thee, too, as love knows how
By kindly words and virtuous life.

Refrain

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

Verse 1: Faith, dungeon

Refrain: Refrain, holy, thee

Verse 2: Strive

Verse 3: foe, strife, virtuous

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: dungeon, fire and sword; hearts beat high with joy

Verse 2: win all nations, truly free

Verse 3: friend and foe, kindly words and virtuous life

Mechanics Verbally discuss

Who is the speaker?

What does the poem reveal about the speaker's character?

Is the speaker addressing someone in particular or is it to anyone?

Does the poem have a setting?

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?

What point of view or perspective is the speaker?

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

Comprehension Questions Verbally discuss

Verse 1: What is meant by the phrase “Faith of our Fathers?” Why do you think the author mentioned “dungeon, fire and sword”? What is the “glorious Word”?

Refrain: Explain and discuss “We will be true to Thee till death.”

Verse 2: What does the author say we are to strive for? What does the author mean by the phrase “We all shall then be truly free”? Do you agree/disagree? Why?

Verse 3: Why do you think the author used the compare/contrast mode for “friend and foe”? What does the author say we are to preach? Do you agree/disagree? Why? Explain and discuss “kindly words and virtuous life.”

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 and the refrain.

How does the Bible define love? For Scripture verses help, check out this internet web page at <http://www.lovetolearnplace.com/SpecialDays/Valentines/Bible.html>

What does the Bible have to say about loyalty? Loyalty means being true to a person or cause. Can you think of any heroes in the Bible that were loyal?

Basically, perseverance means steadfast persistence. Give some Scripture verses that deal with perseverance. Can you think of anyone in the Bible that demonstrated perseverance? Can you think of anyone, past or present, that demonstrated perseverance?

What does the Bible have to say about courage? Courage is not the absence of fear, but going ahead and standing for the right in spite of one’s fear. Can you think of anyone in the Bible that demonstrated courage? Can you think of anyone, past or present, that demonstrated courage?

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 Frederick William Faber (1814-1863). He was born 28 June 1814, Calverley vicarage, West Yorkshire, England, and died 26 September 1863, Brompton, Kensington, Middlesex, England. (He is buried at Brompton Oratory Church, London, England.) Mr. Faber’s father was an Anglican clergyman. Faber attended Balliol College, Oxford, and was ordained as an Anglican minister becoming the Rector of Elton in 1843. Within three years, Mr. Faber would switch to Roman Catholicism and found the Brotherhood of St. Philip Neri, in King William Street, Strand, England.

Geography

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

Challenge Locate West Yorkshire (England), Brompton (England), Kensington (England), and Middlesex, (England) on a map or in an atlas.

Compare/contrast the weather of 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 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 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 that reflect this poem (e.g., Christians living in ancient Rome, Pilgrims, western settlers, Dolley Madison, Charlemagne, the Crusaders, 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 *Faith of Our Fathers*.

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