

# **The Authority and Use of the Hymn in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Classrooms**

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## **A Lutheran's Reputation**

## **The Advantage Goes to...**

This does not mean...

## **The Benefit of Teaching Hymns**

1. God's truths intertwined with music provide a powerful 1-2 punch
  
2. It's Christ-Light's supplement and monotony breaker
  
3. Hymns serve as our "nightlight" when times are dark.
  - Literally
  - Figuratively

4. Knowledge of Hymns prepare us for our dying hour
  - So do Bible passages, HOWEVER...
  
5. Literary Techniques
  
6. Kids love singing so let's feed them something with substance
  
7. Pass on the heritage
  - Scary thought...

### **What to look for in a hymn**

1. Distinguish Law and Gospel
  - CW 377: 2-3 vs. 4
  - CW 303
  - CW 431: 1-3 vs. 4-6
  
2. Identify Literary Techniques
  - Word Choice
    - CW 127
    - CW 551
  - Imperatives
    - CW 104
  - Imagery
    - CW 105
  - Rhyme Schemes
    - The talent needed to do it!
  - Meter: numbers on the bottom
  - Similes
    - CW 147:1

- Hyperboles
  - CW 194:1
- Metaphors
  - Exhaustive list!
  - CW 200 is classic
- Irony
  - CW 127:2
  - CWS 758
- Personification
  - CW 431:3
- Paradoxes
  - CWS 746
- Alliteration
  - CW 444:1
- Use of repetition
  - CW 540:1
  - CW 353

Too sophisticated?

3. Background – not random facts
  - Hymns not created in a vacuum
  - Youtube
  - Just like songs on radio, most hymns were written for a particular reason
4. Key phrases
  - is there a phrase that rises above the rest (due in large part to some literary technique)
  - is there a phrase that nicely sums up the poet's message?
  - is there a phrase that creates a stunning picture in the mind
  - is there a phrase that lends itself to a more in-depth discussion
5. Musical Style
  - Does mood of tune complement, hinder, or neither the hymn?
  - CW 305 and 490
6. Relevancy
  - Hymns don't age
7. Hymn Credits
  - Bottom to top

## Practice

### Making it Work: Outside/Inside the Class

1. Outside: hit it hard
  
2. Inside:
  - The Lesson

### The “Project” (see sample lesson plans that model the following):

1. Visual representations
    - Mighty powerful
  
  2. Technology: publisher, powerpoint, video, smartboard, facebook, website
  
  3. Use of writing
    - what does it mean to you?
    - Write another stanza that you wish the poet would have added
    - in a friendly letter format and using the words of the hymn, pretend you’re writing to a friend who is struggling with something
    - in a persuasive style, tell what makes this hymn the best ever
    - write to a living composer/poet
      - Moldenhauer
      - Starke
      - Tiefel
      - Backer
  
  4. Build/Mold/ Assemble/Construct
    - CW 532
    - CW 341
  
  5. Including entire church/school family
    - Interview
    - CW 341
    - Comments for bulletin?
  
  6. Competition/Reward
    - CW 221
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7. Favorite Tune/Text
  - End of year activity; your reward!
8. Group work

**Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy!** Booya...in your face, Satan. This is a bold statement. Therefore, we will print this statement **BOLDLY** using paint, big paint brushes, and butcher paper. The paper should cover the entire computer wall.

\_\_\_\_\_ - architect work (pencil in the letters and its design to cover the entire space)

\_\_\_\_\_ - paint crew #1 (paint the first phrase in ONE color)

\_\_\_\_\_ - paint crew #2 (paint the second phrase in ONE color)

\_\_\_\_\_ - picture/design work (where appropriate and available in space, draw and paint an EASTER scene or other simple designs to give it a little life)

### **What hymns to teach**

- Begin with a visit to the pastor and/or worship leader
- See handout for suggestions (K, 1-2, 3-5, 6-8)

### **Memorize?**

Yes...and pick the stanzas wisely.

### **Hymnology Games**

1. End-of-the-year tournament
2. Name that tune
3. Trivia based on what you taught

### **Sample Lesson Plans**

- See handouts; 57 ready for you to use and/or tweak

## Resources

Your Bible

*Christian Worship Handbook* – a gem

Julian, John. *A Dictionary of Hymnology, Setting Forth the Origin and History of Christian Hymns of All Ages and Nations*. New York: Dover Publications, 1957.

Millar, Patrick. *The Story of the Church's Song*. Pomona, CA. Pomona Press, 2007.

Music, David. *Hymnology: A Collection of Source Readings*. Lanhan, MD., and London: Scarecrow, 1986. (ISBN 0-8108-3148-1)

Reynolds, Wm. J., Milburn Price, and David W. Music. *A Survey of Christian Hymnody*. Carol Stream: Hope, 1999. (ISBN 0-916642-67-4)

Routley, Erik. *Christian Hymns Observed: When In Our Music God is Glorified*. Princeton, N.J.: Prestige Publication, 1982.