



**BACH, THE BOY
FROM THURINGIA
LESSON PLANS**

Good children's literature appeals
not only to the child in the adult,
but to the adult in the child.

~ ANONYMOUS ~

BACH 2

Time: 45 minutes

Reading: Chapter 1: In the Thuringian Village of Eisenach (pages 8–19)

Goal: To introduce biography as a genre of literature

Review: The Bible in the hands of the individual renews his mind and transforms his life.

Principle: It is in the family that a godly heritage is handed down from generation to generation.

Scripture: “The LORD is the portion of my inheritance and my cup; You support my lot. The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; indeed, my heritage is beautiful to me.” (Psalm 16:5–6)

Music Appreciation: German community brass band music

TEACHER



Vocabulary:

biography (n.) The history of the life and character of a real person.

characterization (n.) The external and internal qualities of each character in the story.

classic (n.) A valued literary work that has withstood the test of time and serves as a standard of excellence. The Bible is the greatest book ever written and is the standard for all languages.

frau (n.) A title for a married German woman.

literature (n.) (1) Learning. (2) The expression of life in words of truth and beauty.

lute (n.) An ancient stringed instrument with a fretted fingerboard that is played like a guitar.

minstrel (n.) A singer or musician who traveled and performed in the Middle Ages.

plot (n.) The sequence of events in the story that leads to a conclusion.

setting (n.) The background of the story including place, time, environment, climate, and the society.

style (n.) The individuality of the author’s expression in writing.

STUDENT



Key Word:

heritage (n.) Valued property, traditions, and beliefs acquired from previous generations.



Notebook Record:

1. Carefully color your coloring page.
2. Record these sentences on your Theme Notes graphic organizer:
 - 1) Music is a gift from God for man’s refreshment and for glorifying Him.
 - 2) As one of the fine arts, music is worthy of study beginning in early childhood.
 - 3) A love of God and His Word, coupled with creativity and hard work, ennoble a man’s mind and character for success.

theme (n.) The lessons or message the author is trying to convey in the story.

vignette (n.) A short descriptive literary sketch.

virtuoso (n.) A person highly skilled in music or other artistic pursuit.



Preparation and Lesson Background:

1. Read “The Place of the Fine Arts” in your AMO® Teacher Manual.
2. Read the entire biography before you teach it.
3. Spend time listening to Bach’s music.
4. Become familiar with the setting of Thuringia by watching:
 - Bach’s Heritage at <http://www.dw.com/en/bachs-heritage-a-visit-to-eisenach-köthen-castle-and-leipzig/av-6709859>
 - Wartburg Castle at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_geJgkRgVeI
5. Review the definitions of literature and the elements of a classic. Study the teacher vocabulary words before teaching. For definitions of musical terms used in the biography, refer to the Dictionary of Musical Terms provided on pages 44 and 45.
6. Read and study the “Introduction to the Classic” that accompanies this lesson plan and the Johann Sebastian Bach Timeline found on page 8.
7. Listen to the brass band music appreciation selections for today’s lesson. Become acquainted with the names of the brass instruments found on page 12.

Suggestions:

- If you do not have internet service in your classroom, audiotape the music appreciation selections and play them in the classroom for the children.
 - You may want to serve hot chocolate, soft German pretzels, or gummi bears during this unit while the children listen to the music.
8. Gather all the resources needed for the lesson: The biography, Dictionary of Musical Terms handout, Baroque Musical Instruments handout, coloring page 2, Theme graphic organizers, student vocabulary card, computer with an internet connection, and the URLs for the music to be played.



Teaching Plan:

1. Distribute student binders and the two handouts: The Dictionary of Musical Terms and Baroque Musical Instruments. Ask the children to file them both in their binder behind the title page. They will be referring to them many times throughout this unit of study

3. File your Dictionary of Musical Terms handout, Baroque Musical Instruments handout, map, coloring page, and Theme graphic organizer in your binder.



Music Appreciation:

German brass band music for community parades



Reason Questions:

1. Define literature. What is the greatest book ever written?
2. Define biography.
3. Describe the village of Eisenach. Who else lived there for a period of time?
4. What was unique about the Bach family?
5. How did Johann Sebastian’s father earn a living?
6. What was the first instrument that Johann Sebastian learned to play? How old was he?



Singing:

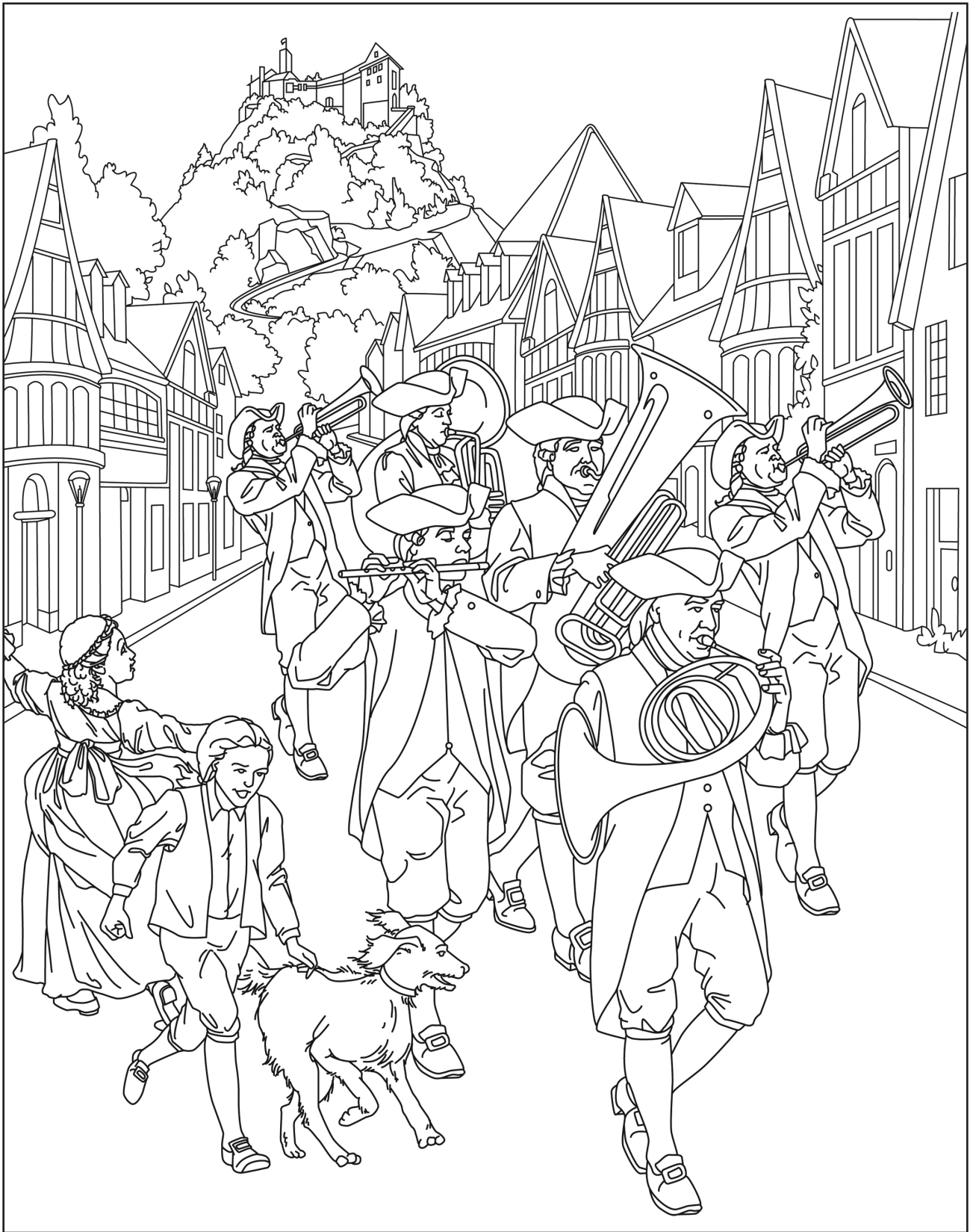
“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

Music and lyrics by Martin Luther, 1529

The Battle Hymn of the Reformation

Verse 1:

A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
Our helper He amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great,
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.



"The band is coming! Make way for the Bach musicians!"

Scholars' Choir Song Sheet

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

*Music and lyrics
by Martin Luther, 1529*

Verse 1:

A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
Our helper He amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great,
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.

"Tallis's Canon"

*Music by Thomas Tallis, 1567
Lyrics from a fifth-century Latin hymn*

Verse 1:

Now that the daylight fills the sky,
Lift we our hearts to God on high,
That He, in all we do or say,
Would keep us free from harm today.

Verse 2:

All praise to God the Father be,
All praise, Eternal Son, to Thee,
Whom with the Spirit we adore,
One God, both now and evermore.
Amen.



German Hampelmann and Hampelfrau



The English words for hampelmann are jumping jack. The jointed jumping jack is a popular European toy whose origin dates back thousands of years. It is a cross between a paper doll and a puppet. The figures are usually made from wood for durability and their limbs are jointed and tied to a pull string. When the string is pulled and released, the arms and legs move up and down. In Germany, the hampelmann was created in 1832 and manufactured in the Erzgebirge mountain range. This region is the heart of German folk art and handcrafts. The beautiful Christmas pyramids, nutcrackers, candle arches, and wooden angels have made this region internationally famous.

Our Project:

Children will select either a hampelmann (man) or hampelfrau (woman) to make. They will cut them out, color them, and help string them. The craft will be completed before guests arrive for the Bachfest.

Supplies:

- one piece of 8.5 x 14 inch (legal-size) white, heavy cardstock per child. The heavier the cardstock, the better.
- patterns (located with the Resources)
- colored pencils
- scissors
- four mini brads (8 x 12 mm) per hampelmann
- 24 inches of thin yarn per child
- small handheld hole punch or a large, thick needle
- clay beads that the children made

Teacher Preparation:

1. Create a sample hampelmann to show the children.
2. Print the patterns on cardstock.
3. Select some Bach music that you can play while the children are working.

Instructions:

1. Distribute the printed cardstock, colored pencils, and scissors to the children.
2. Design and color the jumping jack.
3. Print your name on the back of the body.
4. Carefully cut out each piece.
5. Punch a small hole through each of the X's marked on the body and limbs and put together with a brad.
6. Cut 3 pieces of yarn and tie together with a knot as shown.
7. Tie and double knot the clay bead at the bottom.

Back view

