

Heroes of Troy 5: Lament

DAVID Hello again, welcome back - I'm David Grant and I hope you are looking at the words to song number 5: the 'Lament.' Last time we learnt the cheery sounding 'That's the wonder, the lightning and the thunder, that's the wonder of war.' Kaching! Do you remember - I asked you at the end whether you thought the composer meant us to think war is wonderful? Well, if you're in any doubt, this lament should help answer that question. Because in this song we understand a little bit about the immense cost of war. And do you know what? I don't mean money. Listen...

SONG *Farewell, farewell, the day is gone,
A world that we once knew.
And one by one we're overcome,
And lay ourselves down to sleep.*

DAVID Keep the sound smooth and long - or 'legato' as we say in music. Listen to those lines again and sing after 2.



1

SONG *Farewell, farewell, the day is gone,
A world that we once knew.*

DAVID Your turn. 1, 2:

ALL **Farewell, farewell, the day is gone,
A world that we once knew.**

DAVID Now listen to the next two lines.

SONG *And one by one we're overcome,
And lay ourselves down to sleep.*

DAVID Your turn now. 1, 2:

ALL **And one by one we're overcome,
And lay ourselves down to sleep.**

DAVID Listen on.

SONG *My father, my mother,
My sister, my brother,
All around us lie.*

DAVID Try that now. 1, 2:

ALL **My father, my mother,
My sister, my brother,
All around us lie.**

DAVID Listen now.

SONG *A gentle rain begins to fall,
 Across the stormy sky.*

DAVID That's right. It's the same tune as before! Sing it after 2. 1, 2:

**ALL A gentle rain begins to fall,
 Across the stormy sky.**

DAVID Did you manage to get that special effect on the word 'stormy'? 'The sto-o-o-rmy sky'. Back now to 'My father, my mother'...And:

**ALL My father, my mother,
 My sister, my brother,
 All around us lie.
 A gentle rain begins to fall,
 Across the stormy sky.**

DAVID Let's add a harmony part at 'My father, my mother'. It's very easy, but before we learn it we need to be in the two groups your teacher has organised. Hands up if you are in the melody part - hello! And hands up for the harmony part? Hi to you too. Excellent. So, harmony part: I want you to learn what I sing. Melody part, you've got a job to do. I want you to count while I sing and at the end say whether you think our lament has 2 beats, 3 beats or 4 beats in the bar. The first beat, when you count 1, is on the 'fa' of father. Right, harmony singers - listen to your part.

SONG *My father, my mother,
My sister, my brother,
All around us lie.*

DAVID There are only two notes in your part...

SONG *My father, my mother,
My sister, my brother,*

DAVID Here's the second note:

SONG *All around...*

DAVID And back to the first:

SONG *...us lie.*

DAVID Your turn. Try it yourselves, just the harmony part, after 2. Are you ready? 1, 2:

**HARMONY My father, my mother,
My sister, my brother,**

DAVID Second note...

HARMONY All around us lie.

DAVID Well done! By the way, melody group, you were counting the beats, weren't you? And if you thought this lament has three beats in the bar, you're right! Listen, 1, 2, 3; 1, 2, 3; 1, 2, 3. Here's a reminder of your part but you'll hear both parts sung together. Listen, then sing! Here it comes.

SONG *My father, my mother,
My sister, my brother,
All around us lie.*

DAVID 1, 2:

**ALL My father, my mother,
My sister, my brother,
All around us lie.**

DAVID We're going to sing it from the top. Remember to keep it beautiful, to breathe and to keep it really strong. 1, 2:

**ALL Farewell, farewell, the day is gone,
A world that we once knew.
And one by one we're overcome,
And lay ourselves down to sleep.
My father, my mother,
My sister, my brother,
All around us lie.
A gentle rain begins to fall,
Across the stormy sky.**

DAVID We can move on to verse 2. I'm sure you can sing it all straightaway but listen first.

SONG *Farewell, farewell, the night draws in,
The shadows dark and cold.
And one by one we're overcome,
And lay ourselves down to weep.
My father, my mother,
My sister, my brother,
Withered on the vine.
We gather up the bitter fruit,
And tread the summer wine.*

DAVID Let's sing together after 2. 1, 2:

ALL **Farewell, farewell, the night draws in,
The shadows dark and cold.
And one by one we're overcome,
And lay ourselves down to weep.
My father, my mother,
My sister, my brother,
Withered on the vine.
We gather up the bitter fruit,
And tread the summer wine.**

DAVID Well done. OK, back to work. I want to ask our harmony singers to add something else to the second verse. Now you know what it's all about, this time when you sing and you hear the melody part sing 'farewell, farewell' you sing this:

SONG *...the night draws in,
The shadows dark and cold.*

DAVID And then again, after the melody part singers begin the second line, you wait and sing this.

SONG *We're overcome,
And lay ourselves down to weep.*

DAVID Listen to how both parts sound, trying to focus on your own part. Then we'll try it after. Listen.

SONG *Farewell, farewell, the night draws in,
The shadows dark and cold.
And one by one we're overcome,
And lay ourselves down to weep.*

DAVID You sing now. I'll count both parts in. Melody first; 1, 2:

ALL Farewell, farewell...

DAVID Harmony; 1, 2:

**ALL ...the night draws in,
The shadows dark and cold.**

DAVID Very good. Melody; 1, 2:

ALL And one by one...

DAVID Harmony; 1, 2:

ALL ...we're overcome,

And lay ourselves down to weep.

DAVID Okay, let's try that again. Melody first; 1, 2:

ALL Farewell, farewell...

DAVID Harmony; 1, 2:

ALL ...the night draws in,

The shadows dark and cold.

DAVID Melody; 1, 2:

ALL And one by one...

DAVID Harmony; 1, 2:

ALL ...we're overcome,

And lay ourselves down to weep.

DAVID Then you sing in two parts as you did earlier on 'My father, my mother.' 1, 2:

ALL My father, my mother,

My sister, my brother,

Withered on the vine.

DAVID We're nearly there. The last section is in two parts as before, followed by a repeat of the last line: 'We tread the summer wine'. Listen first, and then sing.

SONG *We gather up the bitter fruit,
And tread the summer wine.
We tread the summer wine.*

DAVID So, melody part first, with the harmony coming in with the same tune as before. Try it. And:

ALL We gather up...

DAVID 1, 2:

**ALL ...the bitter fruit,
And tread the summer wine.**

DAVID 'We tread the summer wine'...And:

ALL We tread the summer wine.

DAVID Right! Let's sing the second verse now in two parts. Melodies begin, harmonies follow. 1, 2:

**ALL Farewell, farewell, the night draws in,
The shadows dark and cold.
And one by one we're overcome,
And lay ourselves down to weep.**

ALL**My father, my mother,****My sister, my brother,****Withered on the vine.****We gather up the bitter fruit,****And tread the summer wine.****We tread the summer wine.**

DAVID

Aw! Lovely harmonies – and you’ve got to put on a performance of this! That’s all for now. Do sing the whole song after the programme. Keep the sad and terrible events of today’s story in your head and you’ll have no problem singing with feeling. Bye for now.