*Jolene* Lyric Comparison: Teacher’s Notes

| Medieval Lyrics | Modern Lyrics |
| --- | --- |
| Jolene, Jolene, Jolene, JoleneI beg of thee, pray take not my lord | Jolene, Jolene, Jolene, JoleneI'm begging of you please don't take my man |
| Jolene, Jolene, Jolene, JoleneI fear, from thee, ‘twould take naught but a word | Jolene, Jolene, Jolene, JolenePlease don't take him just because you can |
| Thy beauty is beyond compare, with flaming locks of auburn hair | Your beauty is beyond compareWith flaming locks of auburn hair |
| With ivory skin and eyes of emerald greenThy smile is like a breath of Spring | With ivory skin and eyes of emerald greenYour smile is like a breath of spring |
| Thy voice is soft like summer rainAnd I cannot compete with thee, Jolene | Your voice is soft like summer rainI cannot compete with you, Jolene |
| He talketh of thee in his sleepAnd alas, I cannot keep from weepingWhen I hear thy name, Jolene | He talks about you in his sleepAnd there's nothing I can do to keepFrom crying when he calls your name, Jolene |
| Although it is so plain to see how little he doth mean to thee, My love for him is boundless as the sea | But I can easily understandHow you could easily take my manBut you don't know what he means to me, Jolene |
| Jolene, Jolene, Jolene, JoleneI beg of thee, pray take not my lord | Jolene, Jolene, Jolene, JoleneI'm begging of you please don't take my man |
| Jolene, Jolene, Jolene, JoleneI fear, from thee, ‘twould take naught but a word | Jolene, Jolene, Jolene, JolenePlease don't take him just because you can |
| Thou couldst have thy choice of men, But I could never love againHe is the only one for me, Jolene | You could have your choice of menI could never love again‘Cause he's the only one for me, Jolene |
| I would risk both life and limbTo spend my only days with himMy happiness is at thy whim, Jolene | But I had to have this talk with youMy happiness depends on youAnd whatever you decide you’ll do, Jolene |
| Jolene, Jolene, Jolene, JoleneI beg of thee, pray take not my lord | Jolene, Jolene, Jolene, JoleneI'm begging of you please don't take my man |
| Jolene, Jolene, Jolene, JoleneI fear, from thee, ‘twould take naught but a word | Jolene, Jolene, Jolene, JolenePlease don't take him just because you can |
| Jolene, Jolene, Jolene, JoleneI beg of thee, pray take not my lordJolene, Jolene, Jolene, Jolene | Jolene, Jolene |

# Sources

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