*Jolene* Lyric Comparison: Teacher’s Notes

| Medieval Lyrics | Modern Lyrics |
| --- | --- |
| Jolene, Jolene, Jolene, Jolene  I beg of thee, pray take not my lord | Jolene, Jolene, Jolene, Jolene  I'm begging of you please don't take my man |
| Jolene, Jolene, Jolene, Jolene  I fear, from thee, ‘twould take naught but a word | Jolene, Jolene, Jolene, Jolene  Please don't take him just because you can |
| Thy beauty is beyond compare, with flaming locks of auburn hair | Your beauty is beyond compare  With flaming locks of auburn hair |
| With ivory skin and eyes of emerald green  Thy smile is like a breath of Spring | With ivory skin and eyes of emerald green  Your smile is like a breath of spring |
| Thy voice is soft like summer rain  And I cannot compete with thee, Jolene | Your voice is soft like summer rain  I cannot compete with you, Jolene |
| He talketh of thee in his sleep  And alas, I cannot keep from weeping  When I hear thy name, Jolene | He talks about you in his sleep  And there's nothing I can do to keep  From 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 understand  How you could easily take my man  But you don't know what he means to me, Jolene |
| Jolene, Jolene, Jolene, Jolene  I beg of thee, pray take not my lord | Jolene, Jolene, Jolene, Jolene  I'm begging of you please don't take my man |
| Jolene, Jolene, Jolene, Jolene  I fear, from thee, ‘twould take naught but a word | Jolene, Jolene, Jolene, Jolene  Please don't take him just because you can |
| Thou couldst have thy choice of men,  But I could never love again  He is the only one for me, Jolene | You could have your choice of men  I could never love again  ‘Cause he's the only one for me, Jolene |
| I would risk both life and limb  To spend my only days with him  My happiness is at thy whim, Jolene | But I had to have this talk with you  My happiness depends on you  And whatever you decide you’ll do, Jolene |
| Jolene, Jolene, Jolene, Jolene  I beg of thee, pray take not my lord | Jolene, Jolene, Jolene, Jolene  I'm begging of you please don't take my man |
| Jolene, Jolene, Jolene, Jolene  I fear, from thee, ‘twould take naught but a word | Jolene, Jolene, Jolene, Jolene  Please don't take him just because you can |
| Jolene, Jolene, Jolene, Jolene  I beg of thee, pray take not my lord  Jolene, Jolene, Jolene, Jolene | Jolene, Jolene |

# Sources

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