The Drummer Boy of Shiloh

William Shakespeare Hayes (1863)

1. On Shiloh's dark and bloody day
   Amongst them was a drummer boy
   A wounded soldier

2. Look down upon the battle field,
   Oh Thou our heavenly friend!
   Have mercy on our sinful souls!

   The soldiers cried, "Amen"
   The flag his winding sheet, God's book
   The key unto his grave.

   For gathered 'round a little group,
   Each brave man knelt and cried;
   They listened to the drummer boy,
   Who prayed before he died.

3. "Oh, Shiloh's dead and wounded lay;
   Amongst them was a drummer boy.
   A wounded soldier

4. Each soldier wept, then, like a child
   Stout hearts were they, and brave;
   The flag his winding sheet, God's book
   The key unto his grave.

   They wrote upon a simple board
   These words; This is a guide
   To those who mourn the drummer boy,
   Who prayed before he died.

5. Ye angels 'round the throne of Grace,
   Look down upon the brave,
   Who fought and died on Shiloh's plain,
   Now slumb'ring in their graves!

   How many homes made desolate
   How many hearts have sighed;
   How many like that drummer boy,
   Who prayed before he died.