

The Blacksmith: A Michaelmas Circle

• Adapted by Sol Velazquez from *El Corro del Herrero*, *El Paso del Año* from the *Escuela Libre Micael*; translated by Louise deForest

Early in the morning

Raise arms from mid-chest to above head, hands close together but not touching; spread hands apart as though picturing an open sky

The fog descends unbidden

Slowly lower arms, palms facing down, as though pressing down to shoulder height

In the middle of the forest

Slowly lower hands back into center of chest

The blacksmith's hut is hidden.

Arms are rounded and protecting head, head lowered and slightly tipped forward

Hardworking is the blacksmith
His forge is always burning;
From the village one can see
In the air the smoke is turning.

Gesture of striking the anvil with a hammer through these three lines

Upon his great steed
A knight gallops near.
His scabbard is empty;
He'll find a sword here.

Arms weave criss-cross across chest as smoke rising

Galloping in place

Galloping, galloping, galloping along.

Palms up, hands gesture empty
Right hand lifts as though holding a sword

"I am the blacksmith
Who forges the steel.
My hammer does sing
It so happy does feel."
Tin, Tin, Tan; Tin, Tin, Tan; Tin, Tin, Tan. Tin.

Galloping around the circle. Repeat enough times so everyone makes one full rotation around the circle.

Hammering on the anvil through this stanza

The bellows are full
From bottom to top,
The steel turns to crimson
The flames do not stop

Repeat 2-3x to experience the rhythm

Hands lifted above head, clasped together at midline.
Move hands as unit down and then up in rhythm with speech as though pumping the bellows.
Hands swoop downward and then up as a shooting flame

Oh, what a lovely game
The steel turned to flame.
The sword is made
And into a hand laid.

Hammering gesture again
Hammering gesture
Hammering gesture
Hands spread apart, palms up in gesture to receive the Sword

Into water it does go
SZT.....
The sword it is tempered
It will vanquish the foe.

Plunging sword downward
Repeat twice, emphasizing the T sound at the end
Raise sword up triumphantly
Swing sword down decisively but not harshly

The blacksmith does polish
Both high and both low.
The long-bladed sword
Does glisten and glow.
Fst.....

Left hand gestures holding handle of sword. Right hand slides out from hilt, palm facing down, extending along length of sword to burnish the sword. Repeat polishing gesture through end of next line.

Three long days
The blacksmith does labor;
Sharpening and shining
The clean-edged saber.

Hammering this line and next

One hand holds sword, other reaches out to smooth and rub each edge. Tip hand to show alternation.

Upon his great steed
A knight gallops near,
His scabbard is empty
He'll find a sword here

Galloping around circle until last line of stanza

Galloping, galloping, galloping along.

Raise right hand up as though holding sword

Continue galloping until whole group has galloped around at least once

Thank you, dear blacksmith,
For all of your work.
I'll take the sword

Standing in place, bow, bend head downward in thanks

Reach out, both hands extended, palms upward, to receive the sword

The dragon does lurk.

The knight takes his leave
Upon his brave steed.

Galloping again through this stanza

Galloping, galloping, galloping along.

O, dear knight so true and brave,
With the strength of this steel

All standing in place, upright posture emphasized
Arms extended forward and slightly up with confidence, suggesting strength

You will all of us save.

Bring hands together and clasp at midline