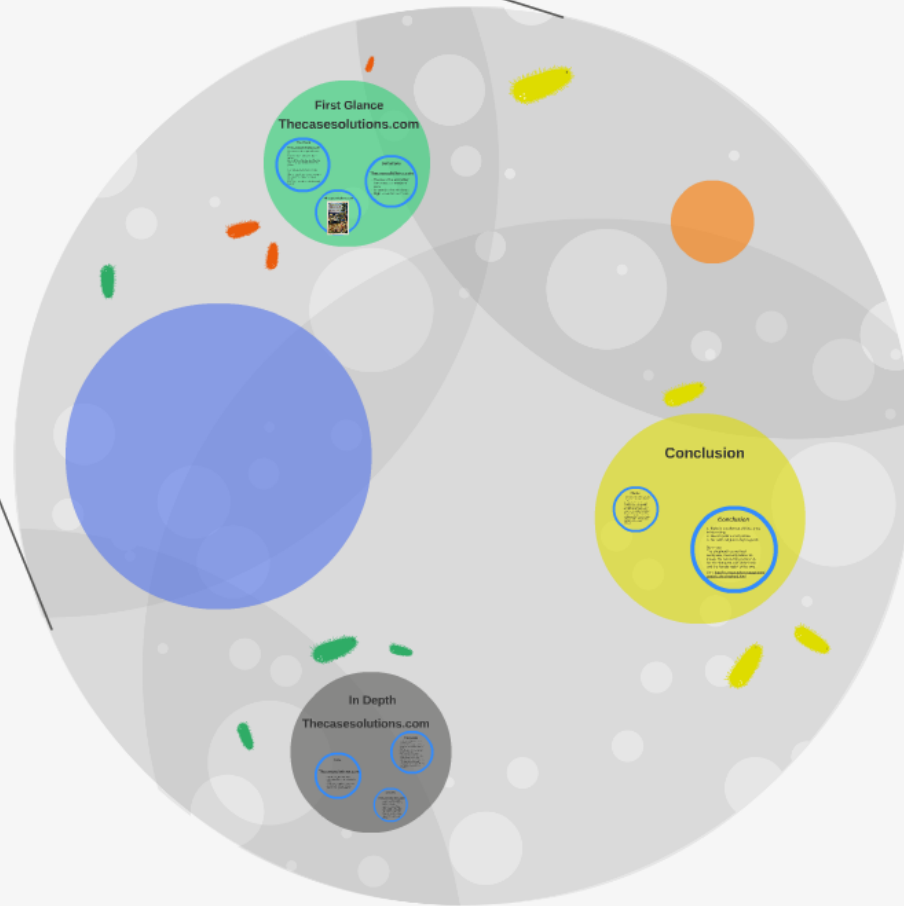




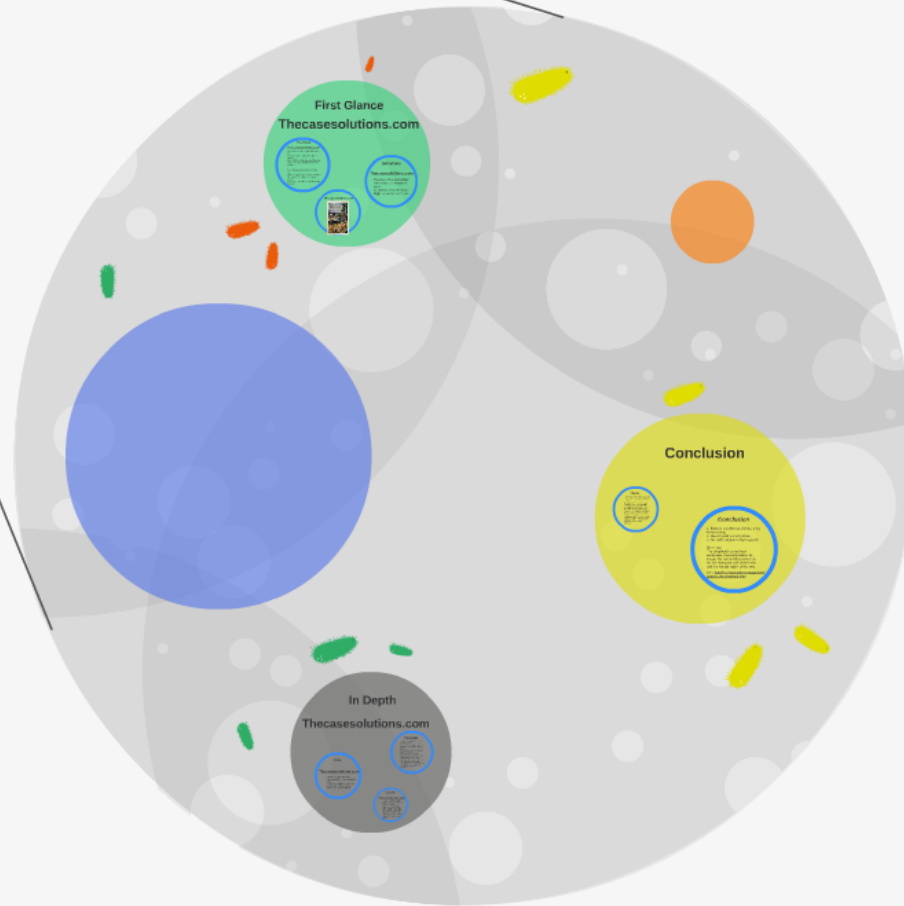
Sheila Mason & Craig Shepherd (Abridged)



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First Glance

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The Poem

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How sweet is the shepherd's sweet lot!
From the morn to the evening he strays;
He shall follow his sheep all the day,
And his tongue shall be filled with praise.

For he hears the lambs' innocent call,
And he hears the ewes' tender reply;
He is watchful while they are in peace,
For they know when their shepherd is nigh.

Definitions

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- The use of the word **stray** here means to wander or roam
- An **ewe** is a female sheep
- **Nigh** is used to mean near

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In Depth

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Tone

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- The tone of this poem is key
- It has two different tones in just 8 lines
- Starts with an upbeat joyful tone
- Second stanza begins with a more somber peacefulness

Messages

- Blake uses religious views to write this poem
- The shepherd can be taken as a metaphorical guardian angel or God
- The sheep are the people that God watches over
- "For he hears the lambs' innocent call, And he hears the ewes' tender reply; He is watchful while they are in peace, For they know when their shepherd is nigh."- Symbolizing our prayer to God and His response

Structure

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- The poem contains 2 stanzas
- It is in standard ABCD format as far as rhyme scheme
- There is a shift from the first stanza which summarizes the shepherd's life during the day to the second stanza which talks about his life during the night
- Blake makes the shepherd's job seem easy and peaceful, but also shows how he must be prepared

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