

Analytical Chart of S/S 3-5:1THEME: Enjoying Life in the Garden (4:16; 5:1)

<u>Basis</u>	<u>Demonstration</u>	<u>Result</u>
1. She... -desires (3:1) -Pursues (3:4) -honors (3:5) -wonders (3:6 ff)	"I sought him" (3:2)	Assurance
2. He... -admiration (4:1) -respect (4:7) -desire (4:8 ff)	"You are all fair" (4:7)	Assurance
3. They... -happiness (4:16 5:1)	"Drink abundantly" (5:1)	Enjoyment Satisfaction

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SOME OBVIOUS LESSONS: In the "garden" (our place of contentment)  
 --There is a joy that is unique  
 --love that minimizes faults, maximizes virtues  
 --mutual respect that produces an enthusiasm for life and removes the fears of selfishness and pride.

Som background data: The Speakers:

The masculine speaker: 4:1-15, 5:1

The feminine speaker: 3:1-11, 4:16

The language in this portion and in the others is largely excessive...in poetry we call it "conceit". I do not mean it is wrong, I mean that it exceeds the literal concept by showing a beauty or grace that cannot be approximated in exact words and so a multitude of ideals is piled up to make the picture vivid.

In our age I identify the garden as the "home" and I know this is a bit stretchy (to try to make the ancient kingly period comparable to ours) but the idea is not a bad one (I think). There is this sense of fulfillment which is only attained in the intimacy of lives that are lived together and that almost necessarily seems to require the privacy of a "home" sort of setting...be it a castle or a cottage.