



# The Tyger

William Blake



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# What words would you use to describe a tiger?



## Religion



William Blake was an artist and an engraver.

Blake's later poetry attempts to re-write the story of creation and the entire history of humanity

Working class background

Blake wrote at the start of the industrial revolution

Blake had radical , eccentric ideas. He pointed out what was wrong with the world as he saw it; he was considered by some to be mad.

# What is it about?

- **‘The Tyger’ is about how god creates all creatures on this earth. Although some may be peaceful and naive like the lamb, others are more ferocious and beautiful in their own way .**
- **The Speaker is asking ‘The Tyger’ who made him?**

Alliteration

Initially a sensuous  
image

Songs of Experience

Tyger! Tyger! Burning bright,

In the forests of the night,

What immortal hand or eye

Could frame thy fearful symmetry?

Our  
imagination

Two halves the same: beauty  
and horror

A speaker asking a  
fearsome tiger what could  
have created it?

The same hand that  
created the the lamb.



Where have your fiery eyes come from?

In what distant deeps or skies  
Burnt the fire of thine eyes?  
On what wings dare he aspire?  
What the hand dare seize the fire?

Relates to hell.

Strength/burden

knowledge

Responsibility,  
power and strength  
of the creator

And what shoulder, and what art,  
Could twist the sinews of thy heart?  
And when thy heart began to beat,  
What dread hand? And what dread feet?

to create such a 'creature' one must  
be extraordinary in both these  
things.

Tendons, veins, arteries of the heart

The words here relate to industry. Blake may also have seen the industrial revolution as 'the tyger'. Within this poem he is referring to strength of this revolution.

What the hammer? What the chain?  
In what furnace was thy brain?  
What the anvil? What dread grasp  
Dare its deadly terrors clasp?

Metaphor-picturing god as a blacksmith

The rhythm suggests the banging of a blacksmiths tools

Words relate to Ironmonger- tools





Fallen angel

Is it a work of art, is it a reflection of its creator?

When the stars threw down their spears,  
And water'd heaven with their tears,  
Did he smile his work to see?  
Did he who made the Lamb make thee?

Reminder: Contrast between  
experience and innocence,

Tones of terror and awe at a being  
that could create the tiger as well  
as the lamb,

Was he pleased with  
his work? He might be  
pleased although  
others may not be.

A world containing both beauty and horror.

Tyger! Tyger! burning bright

In the forests of the night,

What immortal hand or eye

Dare frame thy fearful symmetry?

Beautiful yet  
destructive.

Six four-line stanzas, uses  
pairs of rhyming couplets to  
create a sense of rhythm  
and continuity

Suggests courage. He must  
have some courage to dare to  
create this 'tyger'

We are left in awe at the complexity  
of the creature

←  
←  
Repetition  
to reinforce  
ideas

# S, Q, A

- Statement: The Tyger is effective because vivid imagery is created in the reader's mind.
- Quote: 'Tiger, Tiger, burning bright'
- Analysis: This is effective because the reader can imagine a tiger prowling the forest at night. A threatening, yet beautiful tiger. The use of the word 'burning' creates a vivid orange colour in the reader's mind. The word 'burning' also relates to fire and hell so the tiger really stands out in the dark forests.

# Now Put it all together:

- The Tyger is effective because vivid imagery is created in the reader's mind. For example, 'Tiger, Tiger, burning bright' This is effective because the reader can imagine a tiger prowling the forest at night. A threatening, yet beautiful tiger. The use of the word 'burning' creates a vivid orange colour in the reader's mind. The word 'burning' also relates to fire and hell so the tiger really stands out in the dark forests.