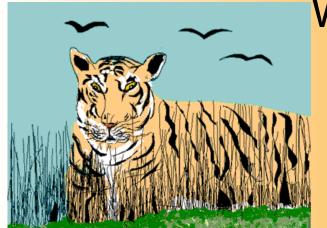




## The Tyger



### William Blake





# 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



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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?



Songs of Experience

Tyger! Tyger! Burning bright, In the forests of the night, What immortal hand or eye

Could frame thy fearful symmetry?

Our imaginations

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?

Tendons, veins, arteries of the heart

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



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

Words relate to Ironmonger- tools

Metaphor-picturing god as a blacksmith

The rhythm suggests the banging of a blacksmiths 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,

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

Was he pleased with



A world containing both beauty and horror.

Tyger! Tyger! burning bright In the forests of the night, What immortal hand or eye

Repetition to reinforce ideas

Dare frame thy fearful symmetry?

Beautiful yet

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



## 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.