

William Blake
Pages 679-688

About the Author

1. In what was Blake formally educated?
2. To whom was he apprenticed at 14 and for what?
3. What did Blake experience as a child and throughout his life?
4. Against what did Blake rebel?
5. In what book are “The Tyger” and “The Lamb” included?
6. How are they mirror poems?
7. What did Blake consider these two poems?
8. What vision does Blake relate in *Songs of Experience*?
9. What vision does Blake relate in *Songs of Innocence*?
10. How might one see a mature vision of the world?



“The Lamb”

1. Define pastoral poem.
2. Define allegory.
3. With what question does the poem open?
4. What makes “all the vales rejoice”?
5. What is the attitude of the speaker as he questions the lamb in stanza one?
6. Who became a little child?
7. With what blessing does the poem end?
8. What is the mood of the poem?
9. What elements help create this mood?
10. What other animals might the poet have used to symbolize innocence?
11. How does “The Lamb” fit the definition of a pastoral poem?



“The Tyger”

1. Define alliteration
2. Define character.
3. Where is the tiger?
4. What questions does the speaker ask of the tiger?
5. Where does fire burn?
6. Who threw down their spears?
7. With what were the heavens watered?
8. What characteristics of the tiger are described in stanzas 2 and 3?
9. To what process does the speaker compare the creation of the tiger?
10. What does the speaker wonder about the lamb?
11. Compare the descriptive words used to describe both the tiger and the lamb.

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12. If the tiger symbolizes experience and the lamb symbolizes innocence, how does experience differ from innocence?
13. How does the poem reflect a fear of the primitive?
14. Why do “civilized people have this fear?
15. List examples of alliteration in both “The Tyger” and “The Lamb”
16. Mark the stressed syllables in the following lines
 - a. And what shoulder and what art,
 - b. Could twist the sinews of thy heart?
 - c. And when thy heart began to beat,
 - d. What dread? And what dread feet?



“London”

1. Define setting.
2. Define image.
3. Where does the speaker walk near?
4. Where does he see the mark of weakness?
5. Who cries in fear?
6. What does the speaker hear in every voice?
7. What “runs in blood down palace walls”?
8. Who is afflicted with “a curse”?
9. What becomes a hearse?
10. In what ways are the people of the city “manacled”?
11. What image of this setting does Blake create?
12. Analyze the people who are wronged in this poem? What sort of people are they? Who or what seems to be the wrongdoer?
13. How does the poet seem to feel about the common people of London? What leads you to this conclusion?
14. What judgment is Blake making about urban life?
15. How is this poem a Romantic poem?