

The Tyger

By William Blake

Tyger Tyger, burning bright,
In the forests of the night;
What immortal hand or eye,
Could frame thy fearful symmetry?

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?

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

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

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?

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Answer in full sentences.

1. What do you think the poem is about?

2. Explain what you think the poet meant when he described the animal as 'burning bright'.

3. When and where might this animal be found?

4. Write down 5 examples of alliteration from the poem.

5. Write down your favourite rhyming couplet from the poem and explain your reason for this choice.

6. What might 'sinews' be? Explain your reasoning.

7. In verse 4, Blake is suggesting that such a powerful animal must have been created by...

(a) a sculptor

(b) a painter

(c) a blacksmith

(d) a carpenter

Tick one and explain your reasoning.

8. Who is 'he' in verse 5?

9. Why do you think the word 'tyger' is spelt with a 'y' instead of an 'i'?

10. Is this a modern poem? Explain your answer.
