

Yesterday you read William Blake's poem 'The Tyger'.

Answer the questions about the poem below.

Don't worry if you can't print the question sheet out - write your answers in your book instead!

Tyger Tyger by William Blake

1. What do you think the poem is about?
 - (a) Different animals which live in forests.
 - (b) An artist painting a picture of a tiger.
 - (c) The poet asking who has created an animal as beautiful and fearsome as a tiger.

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 four examples of alliteration from the poem.

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

6. 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

What made you choose your answer?

7. Who is 'he' in verse 5?

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

The answers to the questions are on the next page.

Don't peek at them until you have answered all of the questions!

Tyger Tyger by William Blake

Answers

1. What do you think the poem is about?

Option c – The poet is asking who has created an animal as beautiful and fearsome as a tiger.

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

Pupil’s own answers. This could be a reference to the colour of the animal’s fur or its ferocity.

3. When and where might this animal be found?

The poet writes that the animal can be located ‘in the forests of the night’.

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

Examples given may include: ‘Tyger, Tyger’, ‘burning bright’, ‘...frame thy fearful...’, ‘distant deeps’, ‘On what wings...’, ‘...began to beat’, ‘...what dread grasp/Dare its deadly terrors clasp!’

5. What might ‘sinews’ be? Explain your reasoning.

Pupil’s own answers that may include words such as tendons, veins or arteries in relation to the heart.

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

Option C - a blacksmith

Explain your reasoning.

An example of reasoning could be - ‘I think this because the poet uses words such as hammer, furnace and anvil within verse 4, which are all tools used by a blacksmith.’

7. Who is 'he' in verse 5?

Pupil's own answers. This could be a reference to God. Blake may be questioning whether 'he' who created the lamb, could have also created the 'tyger'.

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

Pupil's own answers that should suggest that this poem isn't a modern poem as there are words within the poem that aren't used today, such as thee, thy and thine.