

Year 6 English & Reading

Topic: Poetry

Listen to the poem being read out loud here:
<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/43687/the-tyger>

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?

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



Comprehension Questions:

1. Look up any vocabulary that you don't know.
2. 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 created an animal as beautiful and fearsome as a tiger.
3. What do you think the poet meant when he described the animal as 'burning bright'?
4. Find and copy a phrase that tells the reader when and where might this animal be found?

5. In verse 4, Blake suggests that such a powerful animal must have been created by..

- a) A sculptor
- b) A painter
- c) A blacksmith
- d) A carpenter

How do you know?

6. Is this a modern poem? How do you know?

7. Who is 'he' in stanza 5?

8. Why do you think Tyger is spelt with a y not an i.

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?

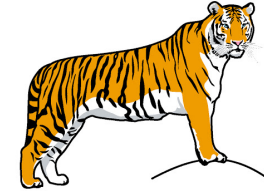
In what distant deeps or skies.
Burnt the fire of thine eyes?
On what wings dare he aspire?
What the hand, dare seize the fire?

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?

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



Comprehension Answers:

1.

Immortal: to live forever

Thy: your

Thine: yours

Aspire: To have an ambitious plan or goal.

Seize: To take hold of

Sinews: A band of tissue connecting a muscle to its bony attachment.

Dread: To cause fear or terror

Furnace: An enclosed structure in which material can be heated to very high temperatures.

Anvil: A heavy block on which hot metals are shaped by hammering.

Thee: you

2. c) The poet asking who created an animal as beautiful and fearsome as a tiger.
3. Answers should refer to the colour of the Animal's fur or its ferocity.
4. 'In the forests of the night.'
5. c) A blacksmith
I think this because the poet uses words such as hammer, furnace and anvil which are tools used by a blacksmith.
6. The poem is not modern as there are words within the poem that aren't used today e.g. thee, thy and thine.
7. This could be a reference to God or whoever created the tyger. Blake may be questioning whether 'he' who created the lamb, could have created The 'tyger'.
8. This could be an old spelling of the word tiger.

The summary explains each verse of the poem.
The summary is colour coded with the full text.

The Full Text of “The Tyger”

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

- 5 In what distant deeps or skies.
- 6 Burnt the fire of thine eyes?
- 7 On what wings dare he aspire?
- 8 What the hand, dare seize the fire?

- 9 And what shoulder, & what art,
- 10 Could twist the sinews of thy heart?
- 11 And when thy heart began to beat,
- 12 What dread hand? & what dread feet?
- 13 What the hammer? what the chain,
- 14 In what furnace was thy brain?
- 15 What the anvil? what dread grasp,
- 16 Dare its deadly terrors clasp!

- 17 When the stars threw down their spears
- 18 And water'd heaven with their tears:
- 19 Did he smile his work to see?
- 20 Did he who made the Lamb make thee?

- 21 Tyger Tyger burning bright,
- 22 In the forests of the night:
- 23 What immortal hand or eye,
- 24 Dare frame thy fearful symmetry?

“The Tyger” Summary

The speaker directly addresses a tiger, imagining its bright flashes of color in the dark night-time forest. The speaker asks which immortal being could possibly have created the tiger's fearsome beauty.

The speaker wonders in which far-off depths or skies the tiger's fiery eyes were made. Did the tiger's creator have wings, and whose hand would be daring enough to create the tiger?

The speaker imagines the kind of effort and skill that must have gone into creating the tiger, wondering who would be strong enough to build the tiger's muscular body. Whose hands and feet were the ones that made the tiger's heart start beating?

The speaker wonders about the tools the tiger's creator must have used, imagining that the tiger's brain was created in a forge. What terrifying being would be so daring as to create the tiger?

The speaker mentions a time when the stars gave up their weapons and rained their tears on heaven. At this time, wonders the speaker, did the creator look at the tiger and smile at his accomplishment? And was the tiger made by the same creator who made the lamb?

The speaker addresses the tiger again, this time wondering not just who *could* create this fearsome beast—but who would *dare*.

Tuesday English

Features of Poetry

Literary Devices Glossary:

Alliteration: The repetition of consonant sounds in the same line.

Personification: To give human qualities to inanimate things.

Rhetorical Question: A question where the person asking the question doesn't expect a direct answer.

Rhyming Couplet: A pair of lines (next to each other) that rhyme.

Task 2:

Complete the Education City homework titled 'Poetry'.

Task 1:

1. How is the poem structured?
2. What do you notice about the first and last stanza?
3. Can you find any examples of alliteration?
4. Give 1 example of a rhyming couplet.
5. Can you find an example of personification in stanza 5?
6. Give 1 example of a rhetorical question?
7. Which words or phrases make the tyger sound frightening and powerful?
8. Which is your favourite stanza? Explain why.

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?

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

Tuesday English

Answers:

1. How is the poem structured?

The poem contains six stanzas which contain four lines. The rhyme scheme is AABB.

2. What do you notice about the first and last stanza?

They are identical apart from the word dare instead of could.

3. Can you find any examples of alliteration?

Burning bright frame fearful distant deeps began beat

4. Give 1 example of a rhyming couplet.

Any two lines which follow each other and rhyme

e.g. Tyger Tyger, burning bright

In the forests of the night

5. Can you find an example of personification in stanza 5?

Where the stars threw down their spears.

6. Give 1 example of a rhetorical question?

Any of the questions in the poem e.g. Did he who made the Lamb make thee?

7. Which words or phrases make the tyger sound frightening and powerful?

Burnt the fire of thine eyes dread hand dread feet deadly terrors clasp

8. Which is your favourite stanza? Explain why.

This will be a personal response. You may have referred to the poet's use of language and how it described the tiger or the impact it had on you as the reader.

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?

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



Task:

Plan your own tiger poem. You may choose another animal if you want.

Vocabulary to describe the movement and appearance of your animal e.g. stalking, pouncing, ferocious, deadly

Similes and Metaphors to describe your animal e.g. claws like daggers, the tiger is a silent monster.

Rhyming words e.g. paw, claw

Alliteration e.g. carnivorous cat

Extension:

Up level your vocabulary using a thesaurus <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english-thesaurus/>

Put some of your ideas into phrases for your poem.

Thursday English

Write it

Task:

Use your plan from yesterday to write your own animal poem. Use the poetry checklist below.

Once you have written it, perform it to a parent or sibling.



Poetry Checklist	✓ or X
At least 4 stanzas	
Describe your animal's appearance and movements	
Rhyming Couplets	
Alliteration	
Simile	
Metaphor	
Rhetorical question	

An example of a stanza:

Majestic predator searching for prey,
Creeping and stalking at the end of the day,
The stripes of this robber are not plain to see,
Piercing green eyes fixed on those that flee.

Literary Devices Glossary:

Alliteration: The repetition of consonant sounds in the same line.

Rhetorical Question: A question where the person asking the question doesn't expect a direct answer.

Rhyming Couplet: A pair of lines (next to each other) that rhyme.

Simile: Comparing one thing to another using the words like or as e.g. claws **like** daggers/ claws **as** sharp **as** daggers.

Metaphor: Comparing one thing to another saying it is something else e.g. the tiger is a monster.