

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, and what art,
Could twist the sinews of thy heart?
And when thy heart began to beat,
What dread hand? and 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 grasp?

When the stars threw down their spears,
And watered 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?

SINEWS

Tendons, or taut,
strong cords of
connective tissue

Name: _____

Teacher: _____

“The Tyger”

Interpretation

Write your answers in COMPLETE SENTENCES in the spaces below.

1. Describe the message of the poem.
2. What kind of animal does William Blake consider the tiger?
3. List the traits of the tiger as described by William Blake.
4. What is the focus of each stanza? (What is the main idea of each stanza?)
5. How does the poet feel about the tiger? How do you know?
6. Write a list of the traits and habits of an animal of your choice. Be sure to use words and phrases in such a way that your poem communicates how you feel about this animal.
7. How do you feel about the similarity between the first and final stanza?
8. What is the rhyme scheme of the poem?
9. Why do you think the poet changed the spelling of tiger to “tyger”?