

William Blake
The Tyger
Wrap your mind around these ones!

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1. The entire poem focuses on the Creator God. But is this God presented in Christian terms? Explain. (10)
2. What image is consistently used throughout the poem to depict the Creator God? How does the poet achieve this image through his choice of words and rhythm? (10)
3. When Blake published "The Tyger" in 1794, few of his readers would actually have seen a tiger. They were simply regarded as amazing beasts which existed in far away India. In fact, the poet himself had probably never seen a real tiger except perhaps in the form of a floor rug in some elite household.
 - Is Blake's description of the Tyger, therefore, real or imaginary? (10)
4. When Blake wrote "The Tyger", England was in the early stages of the Industrial Revolution. Is this reflected in any way in this poem? (10)
5. "The Tyger" was published as part of Blake's Songs of Experience, in contrast to "The Lamb" which formed part of his Songs of Innocence.
 - In what way can "The Tyger" be said to be a "song of experience"? (10)
6. A rhetorical question is one which does not need an answer, or one where the answer is obvious.
 - "The Tyger" is full of questions which the poet does not answer. Are they therefore rhetorical? Or is there another reason for his not answering them? (10)

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