

The Tyger

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 watered heaven with their tears,
Did he smile his work to see?
Did he who made the Lamb make thee?

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1. Write down 5 questions you'd like answered about the poem.
2. Choose the 3 best questions and share them with a partner.
3. Which 2 animals are mentioned in the poem?
4. How are these animals different?
5. Why do you think the tiger is described as burning?
6. If something is symmetrical, what does it mean?
7. Why would the tiger be described as having symmetry?
8. In pairs discuss how you think the poet views tigers.
9. In the poem, it talks about things being made or starting up, why do you think this is?
10. Overall, what sort of impression, or picture, do you get of the tiger?