

Title

"The
Lamb"

Poet

William
Blake

Form

Lyric poem

- Q + A
- rhymed couplets
- refrains

Summary

A child (the speaker) asks the lamb where he came from + how he came to have certain characteristics.

He then answers his questions by explaining that God/Christ made the lamb + blesses the lamb at the end.

Imagery

(what you can see, smell, hear, taste, or touch)

- stream + mead
- soft wool
- tender voice (of the lamb)
- the Christ child

Diction: Describe the poet's word choices overall

Simple Symbolic
Positive child-like
Descriptive

Speaker: What do we know (or can we infer) about the speaker/persona?

He is a child who feels love for God's creation, the little lamb.

Tone: What is the speaker's attitude toward the subject?

praise + appreciation
confident
gentle + joyful

Shifts: Can you identify any important shifts in perspective, setting, focus, speaker, or tone?

Stanza one poses questions + is more concrete. Stanza two answers them + is more abstract/spiritual.

SOUND

What is the RHYTHM?

Trochaic

What is the METER?

tri + tetrameter

w/ some
catalexis

Identify one strong example of
ALLITERATION, ASSONANCE,
or CONSONANCE:

repeated "l" sounds
add to a gentle,
flowing sound +
even mimic a lamb's
bleat.
Rhyme Scheme?

Simple AAB...
(couplets rhyme)

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE & RHETORICAL DEVICES

- ❖ Metaphor
- ❖ Simile
- ❖ Synecdoche
- ❖ Metonymy
- ❖ Hyperbole
- ❖ Symbolism
- ❖ Personification
- ❖ Oxymoron
- ❖ Understatement
- ❖ Antithesis
- ❖ Rhetorical Question
- ❖ Allusion
- ❖ Repetition
- ❖ Irony

The lamb
symbolizes
Christ + the
small child
reminds us of
the Christ
child. The
lamb is an
example of God's
will + the peaceful
beauty of His creation.

Repetition
creates a
child's song
quality or
a hymn-like
quality.

Rhetorical
questions set
up the
answer
(God).

THEME

What is the message, lesson, or
Point of the poem?

The poem praises
God's creation +
reminds us to
appreciate it like
an innocent child.
It emphasizes the
blessing of life +
Christ's meek +
innocent nature –
He is like both the
child + the lamb.
It also underscores
Christian values of
gentleness, peace, +
joy in God's creation.

Title

"The
Tyger"

Poet

William
Blake

Form

Lyric
• many
questions
but no
answer

Summary

The speaker asks the tyger a series of questions about its creator, how he could have created the tyger and when finished, how must he have felt? Could the same one who made the lamb have made the tyger?

Imagery

(what you can see, smell, hear, taste, or touch)

- the bright flashes of the tiger's stripes in the dark night of the forest
- the tyger's firey eyes
- the beating tyger's heart
- hammer, furnace, + anvil (a forge)
- stars throwing down their spears + weeping

Diction: Describe the poet's word choices overall

Formal metaphorical
Sophisticated
Dark

Speaker: What do we know (or can we infer) about the speaker/persona?

An older, less naïve speaker than the child from "The Lamb"

Tone: What is the speaker's attitude toward the subject?

Awe / Wonder Puzzled
Fear + Worry
meditative + Questioning

Shifts: Can you identify any important shifts in perspective, setting, focus, speaker, or tone?

At first, he asks who could make the Tyger. At the end, he asks who would dare to make him.

SOUND

What is the RHYTHM?

Trochaic

What is the METER?

Tetrameter
(catalexis)

Identify one strong example of
ALLITERATION, ASSONANCE,
or CONSONANCE:

burning bright
frame fearful
"i" sound in line 1

Rhyme Scheme?

AABB
(rhyming couplets)

Trochees
+ couplets =
heart beat
sound
(fear?)

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE & RHETORICAL DEVICES

- ❖ Metaphor
- ❖ Simile
- ❖ Synecdoche
- ❖ Metonymy
- ❖ Hyperbole
- ❖ Symbolism
- ❖ Personification
- ❖ Oxymoron
- ❖ Understatement
- ❖ Antithesis
- ❖ Rhetorical Question
- ❖ Allusion
- ❖ Repetition
- ❖ Irony

blacksmith = the creator

fire - allusion to
Prometheus

Lamb - allusion
to Christ + to
Blake's poem

"The Lamb"

Rhetorical
Question: If
God created
the Tyger,
what kind
of creator
is He?

fearful symmetry
= good + evil
dark forest = mystery
of creation or human
subconscious (ties
the tyger to darkness
+ repression, even evil)

"in what distant deeps
or skies" = allusion to hell
or heaven

Fire = power, creativity +
destruction

Tyger = Powerful, beautiful,
mesmerizing, scary +
dangerous

THEME

What is the message, lesson, or
Point of the poem?

It brings up questions
about God. Why did
He create this balance
of strong + weak, light
+ dark in the world?

Shows God as a creator
of oppositional forces +
a creator beyond our
understanding.

The dark, destructive,
or seemingly evil parts
of creation are necessary
+ have a kind of beauty
too. Balance seems key.

God is enigmatic + can
be destructive, too, like
the Tyger.

God's creation is
intentional, like the
work of a blacksmith.