

Name _____

Class _____

“The Tyger” (390-391)
William Blake

Vocabulary:

Symmetry (n)

Aspire (v)

Sinew (n)

Dread (adj)

Anvil (n)

Clasp (v)

Study Questions:

1. How does the poet describe the tiger? Use specific language.

2. There are 13 question marks in the poem, and only one complete sentence that doesn't end with one. Why does the poet ask so many questions? What answers is the poet looking for?

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3. How does the line “Did **he** who make the lamb make thee?” contribute to the development of the poem? Who is the “he” that the poet suggests made both the lamb and the tiger? Why does this matter?

4. When the poet asks the question, “What immortal hand or eye/ Dare frame thy fearful symmetry?” what does the poet want to know?

5. The poet uses language to depict the tiger being created by a blacksmith with a hammer and an anvil in a furnace. Why does the poet use fire imagery throughout the poem? How is fire related to the character of the tiger?

6. The tiger in the poem is a symbol: it represents itself as an animal but also other ideas. What other ideas does the poet suggest the tiger symbolizes?