

TONE with WILLIAM BLAKE

THE TYGER (from Songs Of Experience)

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 sieze 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?

Tyger! Tyger! burning bright
In the forests of the night,
What immortal hand or eye
Dare frame thy fearful symmetry?




TONE IS THE ATTITUDE
AN AUTHOR TAKES
TOWARD A SUBJECT.

THE TONE CAN BE
PLAYFUL, BITTER,
HUMOROUS...THE
POSSIBILITIES ARE
ENDLESS.



IN "THE TYGER"
I DESCRIBE TIGERS
AS FEARSOME!
AND TERRIFYING!!

RIGHT,
BUTTERCUP?



ONE WAY TO LOOK
AT TONE IS TO LOOK
AT THE IMAGERY
THE POET USES.

WHAT FEELING
DO YOU GET
FROM "BURNING
BRIGHT" AND
"FIRE IN HIS
EYES?"



Questions:

What other words in the poem help to create tone?

What items are created in a forge in Blake's time? What about today? How does this fit with the tone of the poem?

Suppose you wanted to describe the tiger as a beautiful, majestic creature. What words might you substitute? What would be a way that such a creature might be created?

MORE ON TONE

The Lamb

Little Lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?
Gave thee life, and bid thee feed,
By the stream and o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing, woolly, bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the vales rejoice?
Little Lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?

Little Lamb, I'll tell thee,
Little Lamb, I'll tell thee.
He is called by thy name,
For He calls Himself a Lamb.
He is meek, and He is mild;
He became a little child.
I a child, and thou a lamb,
We are called by His name.
Little Lamb, God bless thee!
Little Lamb, God bless thee!

-William Blake

This poem is the companion piece to "The Tyger." "The Lamb" comes from a series of poems entitled "Songs of Innocence," whereas "The Tyger" comes from "Songs Of Experience." How is the tone different in the two? Given the titles of the series from which they come, how is the title appropriate for each?