

**WILLIAM BLAKE'S THE TYGER: POETIC THEME AND FIGURATIVE LANGUAGES**

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**ABSTRACT**

This article talks about William Blake's poem "The Tyger." The author's biography is included in order to give readers a better understanding of the poetry. This tale analyzes the subject and figurative languages of the poetry. Authors employ literary methods to help readers understand their thoughts, emotions, and viewpoints. Blake used literary devices to evoke the ferocious yet beautiful image of a tiger in this poem. The sections that follow discuss the literary devices used in this poem. The findings and conclusion are offered to wrap up the discussion.

**Keywords:** Expressivism, Figurative language, Poem analysis, Poetic theme, Textual analysis

**I. POET'S BIOGRAPHY**

William Blake was an English poet, painter, and printmaker who lived from 28 November 1757 to 12 August 1827. Blake, who was mostly ignored during his lifetime, is now regarded as a key influence in the development of Romantic-era poetry and visual art. According to 20th-century scholar Northrop Frye, what he dubbed his "prophetic works" include "the least read collection of poetry in the English language in proportion to its strengths." Jonathan Jones, a critic from the twenty-first century, called him "far and away the best artist Britain has ever produced" due to his visual creativity. In a poll of the 100 Greatest Britons conducted by the BBC in 2002, Blake came in at number 38. With the exception of three years spent in Felpham, he spent his entire life in London, where he created a wide range of works that embrace the imagination as "the body of God" or "human existence itself."

**I. ANALYSIS**

One of Blake's Songs of Experience's emblematic poems is The Tyger. The creation and demise of the tiger are the book's central themes. The tiger has an intimidating but balanced appearance. It is horrifying in its intensity and power. Even the angles started crying out of

sadness and dread at what the tiger could do. The poet finds it hard to imagine that the person who created the lamb would dare to create the tiger. But only God Himself could create and frame the terrifying symmetry of the tiger. But the poetry also means something else.

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

The poet claims that the tiger is blazing bright in the nighttime forests in the first stanza. The tiger in the forest is said to be "blazing like fire," or, to put it another way, "looking like yellow flames in the dead of night," according to the passage. The tiger's bright yellow color, which gives it a fearsome appearance, is also reflected in the burning flames.

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?

The poet discusses the tiger's eyes in the second stanza. He wonders where the fire came from that was put into the tiger's eyes, referring to infinite distant locations.

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?

The poet discusses the heart of the tiger in the third stanza. He speculates as to what sort of shoulders and artistic talent the Creator would possess to twist or otherwise mold the muscles or ligaments of the tiger's heart. In this poem, the author extols the greatness and genius of God, whose handiwork was instrumental in the creation of the tiger's heart.

What the hammer? what the chain,  
In what furnace was thy brain?  
What the anvil? what dread grasp,  
Dare its deadly terrors clasp!

The poet compliments the tiger's brain in the fourth stanza. He speculates about what hammer, chain, anvil, and furnace the Creator might have used to fashion the tiger's brain. The iron-smith uses these tools to produce sturdy, heavy things.

When the stars threw down their spears  
And water'd heaven with their tears:  
Did he smile his work to see?  
Did he who made the Lamb make thee?

The author frequently contrasts this vicious animal in this stanza with the lamb, which is mild-mannered, harmless, and completely the antithesis of the former. Additionally, there is a connection to a Biblical incident that is mentioned in John Milton's *Paradise Lost*.

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

The last stanza is an extension of the first. Here, the only word that is altered is "dare," which is quite important. In the first stanza, the poet appears to be less awed by the abilities of the tiger and God, but after examining all of the tiger's characteristics, he wonders if anybody other than God would dare to create such an animal.

## 2.1 POETIC THEMES

William Blake explores the notion that all living things must share some characteristics with their creator in "The Tyger." The opening lines grow gradually to the poem's main theme of reflecting on God in the heavens above. The tiger is essentially a majestic, enigmatic, and dangerous animal. This is a picture of God's nature.

In "The Tyger," which is primarily constructed of unanswered questions, the poet leaves his audience pondering about the creator's will, his limitless power, and feeling admiration for God's creation. So the poet ends his poem with some interesting comments on both experience and innocence.

## 2.2 FIGURATIVE LANGUAGES

Literary devices are tools that authors use to convey their ideas, feelings, and emotions to the reader. Blake also incorporated literary strategies to convey the savage yet gorgeous image of a tiger in this poem. The literary devices utilized in this poem are examined in the sections that follow.

**Metaphor:** It is a figure of speech used to contrast two things or people that are fundamentally different from one another. Two metaphors appear in the poem. In the second stanza, he uses the phrase "In the forests of the night" to contrast the tiger with gloom and oppression, and the sixth line, "Burnt the fire of thine eyes?" completes the comparison. He likens the creature's eyes to fire or something horrible.

**Personification:** Personification is the practice of giving inanimate objects human characteristics. Blake utilizes personification in the sixth stanza to treat stars like people.

"When the stars threw down their spears  
And water'd heaven with their tears:"

**Alliteration:** Consonant sounds are repeated in a line in a literary device known as alliteration. Examples include the sounds of /t/ and /b/ in "Tyger Tyger, burning bright" and /f/ in "Dare frame thy fearful symmetry."

**Apostrophe:** An apostrophe is a device for calling someone far away. Tyger Tyger, glowing bright, is the first sentence where the poet employs this technique.

### CONCLUSIONS

"The Tyger" is an example of how some people could feel about God's amazing power. Even if God is perfect, he nevertheless has the capacity to create imperfection, just like we do. Since he created each of us in our own special way, humans are excellent in his eyes, just like tigers. However, because we are flawed animals, we are also imperfect. Blake's use of symbolism and imagery aids in our comprehension of God's beauty. Even though evil is implied in everything that God has created, he thought it was all beautiful and great.

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