

Anthology Poetry Unit 2

Lesson 1

London - Blake

Learning Outcomes

1. You will revise the themes and ideas in the poems you have studied in Year 9
2. You will be able to explain what the poem is about
3. You will be able to comment on the themes and ideas in the poem
4. You will show your understanding of the context of the poem.
5. You will analyse the language and structure of the poem
6. You will discuss your personal response to the poem.

Which of these poems have you studied already?

WJEC Eduqas GCSE English Literature Poetry Anthology

1. *The Manhunt* Simon Armitage
2. *Sonnet 43* Elizabeth Barrett Browning
3. *London* William Blake
4. *The Soldier* Rupert Brooke
5. *She Walks in Beauty* Lord Byron
6. *Living Space* Imtiaz Dharker
7. *As Imperceptibly as Grief* Emily Dickinson
8. *Cozy Apologia* Rita Dove
9. *Valentine* Carol Ann Duffy
10. *A Wife in London* Thomas Hardy
11. *Death of a Naturalist* Seamus Heaney
12. *Hawk Roosting* Ted Hughes
13. *To Autumn* John Keats
14. *Afternoons* Philip Larkin
15. *Dulce et Decorum Est* Wilfred Owen
16. *Ozymandias* Percy Bysshe Shelley
17. *Mametz Wood* Owen Sheers
18. Excerpt from *The Prelude* William Wordsworth

What were they about?

Nature	Growing Old/Loss/Grief	War	Love

Add some new columns to your list of themes

Places	People	Loss
Looking at the titles, which poems do you think will fit into these themes?		

London – William Blake

What is it about? How is it structured?

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rAlbkA4NRGQ>

London

I wander through each chartered street,
Near where the chartered Thames does flow,
A mark in every face I meet,
Marks of weakness, marks of woe.

In every cry of every man,
In every infant's cry of fear,
In every voice, in every ban,
The mind-forged manacles I hear:

How the chimney-sweeper's cry
Every blackening church appals,
And the hapless soldier's sigh
Runs in blood down palace-walls.

But most, through midnight streets I hear
How the youthful harlot's curse
Blasts the new-born infant's tear,
And blights with plagues the marriage hearse.

1. Annotate the poem
explaining what each
stanza is about

Context

- William Blake was a poet and artist who specialised in illuminated texts, often of a religious nature. He rejected established religion for various reasons. One of the main ones was the failure of the established Church to help children in London who were forced to work. Blake lived and worked in the capital, so was arguably well placed to write clearly about the conditions people who lived there faced.
- Published in 1794, this collection of poems, fully illustrated and originally hand-printed by Blake, aimed to show the "Two Contrary States of the Human Soul". The *Songs of Innocence* section contains poems which are positive in tone and celebrate love, childhood and nature. *The Songs of Experience* poems are obviously intended to provide a contrast, and illustrate the effects of modern life on people and nature. Dangerous industrial conditions, child labour, prostitution and poverty are just some of the topics Blake explores.

Language

London

I wander through each chartered street,
Near where the chartered Thames does flow,
A mark in every face I meet,
Marks of weakness, marks of woe.

In every cry of every man,
In every infant's cry of fear,
In every voice, in every ban,
The mind-forged manacles I hear:

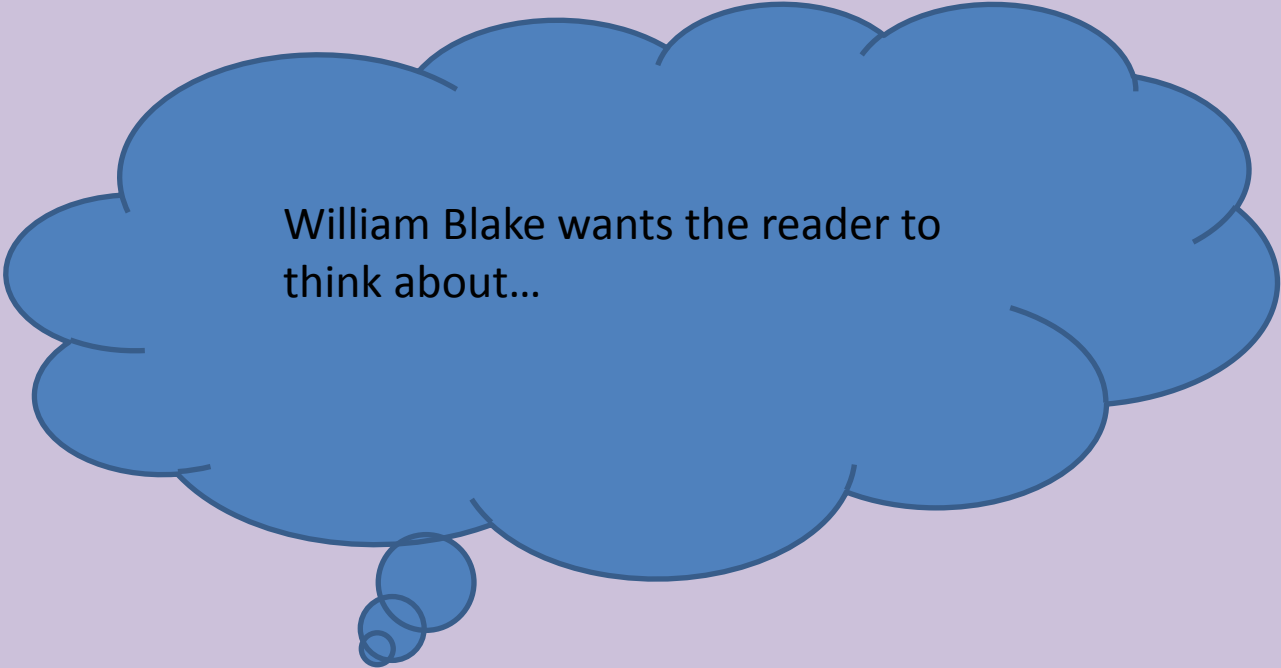
How the chimney-sweeper's cry
Every blackening church appals,
And the hapless soldier's sigh
Runs in blood down palace-walls.

But most, through midnight streets I hear
How the youthful harlot's curse
Blasts the new-born infant's tear,
And blights with plagues the marriage hearse.

1. Underline the negative words
2. Where does the poet use repetition? Why?
3. What is the tone of this poem?

What's the overall idea in the poem?

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6BERjLZzuOg>



William Blake wants the reader to think about...

This is our next poem for study –

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sPlSH6n37ts>
- Which theme do you think this fits into?