

Eng. HW (The Chimney Sweeper)

The Chimney Sweeper is a poem by William Blake. The poem is told from the perspective of a young chimney sweep, a young boy who has been sold into labor by his father. The sweep meets a new recruit to the chimney sweeping gang named Tom Dacre, who arrives terrified. After the speaker tries to reassure Tom, Tom dreams of an angel who sets the chimney sweeps free, allowing them to play in green fields and then ascend to heaven. This dream seems to suggest that if the boys are obedient, they'll go to heaven. This poem simply addresses the issue of child labor.