

## Get Going

A. Let us find the answers from the poem.

1) Who is the speaker in the poem?

Ans) The speaker in the poem is a little child who works as a chimney sweeper.

2) Where are the speaker's parents?

Ans) The speaker's mother dies when he was very young and his father sold him when he could barely speak.

3) Who is Tom Dacre and why did he cry?

Ans) Tom Dacre was another child working as a chimney sweeper, probably someone close to the speaker. He was crying because his head was being shaved.

4) What does the speaker say to make Tom Dacre feel better?

Ans) The speaker tells Tom that ~~it~~ it is good that his head is being shaved as now the soot would not spoil his hair.

5) Describe the dream that Tom Dacre had.

Ans) Tom Dacre dreamt that thousands of chimneys

sweepers were locked in black coffins. Then an angel opened the coffins with a bright key and set them free. They went leaping and laughing in a green field and bathed in a river leaving their bags behind and they rose up to fly in the clouds. The angel also told Tom that if he were a good boy, he would have God as his father.

6) What did Tom feel about the dream the next morning?

Ans) The next morning, Tom felt very happy and warm due to the dream.

B. Let us read between the lines.

1) What is the theme of the poem?

Ans) The theme of the poem is exploitation and child labour, as we can see children being pushed into an extremely risky profession by adults.

2) Point out one instance of alliteration and one instance of simile.

Ans) One example of alliteration is 'leaping, laughing they run'. One example of simile is 'his head that ~~was~~ curled like a lamb's back!'

3) Why do you think the language and structure of the poem is simple?

Ans) The language and structure of the poem is simple as it is being narrated by a child.

4) Irony is a figure of speech in which the intended meaning of a word is usually opposite to its literal meaning. Point out one instance of irony in the poem.

Ans) There are several instances in the poem where the poet has used irony. One of the instances is when the poem ends with 'so if all do their duty, they need not fear harm'. The children were told that their duty is to clean chimneys and if they perform their duties well, they will be safe. However, the only task a child of their age should have is to play.

5) What is the tone of the poem?

Ans) The poem gives us the perspective of a child who is innocent and almost uncritical of his life. However, if we read closely, phrases such as 'coffins of black' and 'rise upon clouds' are indicative of death and thus, suggest that the tone of the poem is sad and dark.