

The Chimney Sweeper

Exercise

Date _____

Page _____

1. Who is the speaker of the poem?
Ans - The speaker in the poem is a young chimney sweeper.

2. Where are the speaker's parents?
Ans - The speaker's mother was dead when he was young & his father sold him where he could barely speak.

3. Who is Tom & Dacre & why did he cry?
Ans - Tom Dacre is another child working as chimney sweeper with the speaker. He was crying because his head's hair was being shaved off.

4. What does the speaker say to make Tom Dacre feel better?
Ans - He tells Tom that it is good that his head is getting shaved as now the soot wouldn't spoil his head.

5. Describe the dream that Tom Dacre had.
Ans - Tom & Dacre dream that thousand of chimney sweeper were locked in black coffins. However an angel opened the coffins with a bright key & set them free. They went leaping & laughing in a green field & bathed in a river, leaving their bags.

behind & they rose up to play in the clouds. The angel also told Tom that if he were a good boy he could have God as his father.

B.1. What is the theme of the poem?

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

2. Point out one instance of alliteration & one instance of simile.

Ans - One example of alliteration is, 'his head that curled like a lamb's back & leaping laughing they run.'

3. Why do you think the language & structure of the poem is simple?

Ans - The language & 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; & 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 & almost uncritical of his life. However, if we read closely phrases such as 'cottons of black' & 'rise upon clouds' are indicative of death & thus, suggest that the tone of the poem is rather sad as dark.

(c) Many children are forced at a very young age to work & earn money. How does that make you feel?

Ans - I feel sad when I see children having to earn money instead of spending

their time playing & studying. I also feel grateful that I didn't have to struggle or be deprived of my basic needs & rights, like the children force into child labour.

2. Do you personally know or have been seen any child who has to work for a living? what can you do to help them?

Ans

If I were to meet a child who is forced to earn their living, I would try to help them by providing food & shelter, I would also try to teach them about their rights & ensure that they receive education.

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parent