

'London' by William Blake

Summarise what the poem is about in full sentences:

Annotate the poem with points you can remember from your initial study:

I wander thro' each charter'd street,
Near where the charter'd Thames does flow.
And mark in every face I meet
Marks of weakness, marks of woe.

In every cry of every Man,
In every Infants cry of fear,
In every voice: in every ban,
The mind-forg'd manacles I hear

How the Chimney-sweepers cry
Every blackning Church appalls,
And the hapless Soldiers sigh
Runs in blood down Palace walls

But most thro' midnight streets I hear
How the youthful Harlots curse
Blasts the new-born Infants tear
And blights with plagues the Marriage hearse

Complete the following questions on context:

- 1) **William Blake is known as a Romantic poet. What does this mean?**
- 2) **Which historical event in France was William Blake a supporter of and why?**
- 3) **How is this support reflected in the poem?**

Complete each analytical verb with a different idea:

William Blake may have written the poem:

to criticise

to teach

to warn

to reveal the importance of

to celebrate



Annotate the following quotations by answering the questions for each:

- 1) What does the line mean?
- 2) What does the line suggest?
- 3) How has Blake used language to present the oppression felt by those in London?

'I wander... near where the charter'd Thames does flow'

'the mind-forg'd manacles I hear'

'Every blackning church appalls'

'blights with plagues the Marriage hearse'

How does William Blake present the abuse of power in 'London'?

Answer in full sentences.

