

HOME LEARNING

Year 11 English – Learning Pack 10

Reading – Task One

Comprehension – Poetry

Read the poem and answer the questions at the end

London

By William Blake

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

Glossary

Mind-forg'd: made in our minds

Manacles: chains and cuffs to restrain someone

Blights: spoils or damages

Charter'd: can either mean 'controlled' or 'mapped'

1. In the first stanza (verse), what impression do we get of the people who live in London?
2. What meanings could the word 'marks' have?
3. Hearses are used in funerals. Why has Blake used a hearse to describe marriage?
4. Can you find an example of personification (when something not human is given human qualities)?
5. Is there an image that you find particularly powerful in the poem? Give a reason why.
6. What do you think Blake means when he writes that the soldier's sigh 'runs in blood down palace walls'?
7. Would you like to live in this London? Why/why not?
8. What does Blake mean when he writes 'mind-forg'd manacles'? See the glossary for help!
9. What does 'hapless' mean?
10. If you could ask Blake one question, what would it be?

Spoken Language – Task Two

Create a presentation either on Powerpoint or as a poster outlining life in London today for potential tourists.

You could think about the following:

What tourist attractions are there in London? (eg. The London Eye, Buckingham Palace)

Have you ever been to London? What were your impressions?

What kind of restaurants can you find in London?

What sort of things can you do in London (during the day and at night)?

Either discuss your ideas with somebody at home or video your presentation and send to your teacher.

Writing – Task Three



Task: Write a description based on what you can see in this picture. Use the tips below to help you with ideas.

Describe:

- What you can see, hear, smell, touch and taste.
- Why you are there
- How you are feeling
- What is happening that you *can't* see in the picture.