Wednesday 6th January
LO: To access



The Chimney Sweeper - William Blake

In the late eighteenth century, a young poet and artist by the name of William Blake became outraged and inspired by the inhumane treatment of young boys called "chimney sweeps."

Thus he produced a protest in the form of simple poetry. ..



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X8PqPrv8bSc

Vocabulary
scarcely - only just
soot - a black powder formed when something is burned
plain - a large area of flat land with few trees
duty - something a person ought to do

Find the vocabulary in the text and check the definition makes sense when you read the sentence.



LO: To read

The Chimney Sweeper by William Blake

When my mother died I was very young,
And my father sold me while yet my tongue
Could scarcely cry " 'weep! 'weep! 'weep! 'weep!"
So your chimneys I sweep & in soot I sleep.

There's little Tom Dacre, who cried when his head
That curled like a lamb's back, was shaved, so I said,
"Hush, Tom! never mind it, for when your head's bare,
You know that the soot cannot spoil your white hair."

And so he was quiet, & that very night,
As Tom was a-sleeping he had such a sight!
That thousands of sweepers, Dick, Joe, Ned, & Jack,
Were all of them locked up in coffins of black;

And by came an Angel who had a bright key,
And he opened the coffins & set them all free;
Then down a green plain, leaping, laughing they run,
And wash in a river and shine in the Sun.

Then naked & white, all their bags left behind,
They rise upon clouds, and sport in the wind.
And the Angel told Tom, if he'd be a good boy,
He'd have God for his father & never want joy.

And so Tom awoke; and we rose in the dark
And got with our bags & our brushes to work.
Though the morning was cold, Tom was happy & warm;
So if all do their duty, they need not fear harm.

https://www.twinkl.ca/go/resource/tg3-au-22-gcse-audio-poem-the-chimney-sweeper

What concepts do you notice in the poem?
How does it make you feel?
What images do you have?
What does it make you wonder?