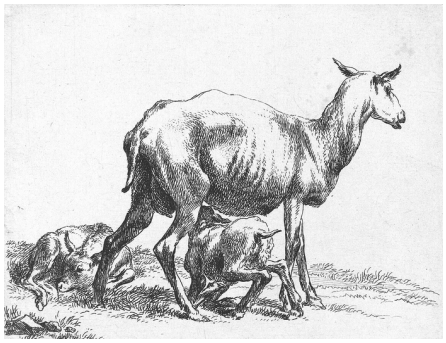
Name _____ Class _____ Date _____



The Lamb

by William Blake

Grades 5–8 · Common Core RL.6.4, RL.6.2, RL.6.5

"The Lamb" appeared in Blake's Songs of Innocence (1789). Five years later he published Songs of Experience, including "The Tyger," which asks a darker version of the same question. The poem has two ten-line stanzas: the first asks questions, the second answers them. The speaker is a child.

THE POEM

Little lamb, who made thee?
Does thou know who made thee,
Gave thee life, and bid thee feed
By the stream and o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing, woolly, bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the vales rejoice?
Little lamb, who made thee?
Does thou know who made thee?

Little lamb, I'll tell thee;
Little lamb, I'll tell thee:
He is callèd by thy name,
For He calls Himself a Lamb.
He is meek, and He is mild,
He became a little child.
I a child, and thou a lamb,
We are callèd by His name.
Little lamb, God bless thee!
Little lamb, God bless thee!

VOCABULARY

thee — you

thou — you

bid — told, commanded

mead — a meadow

clothing of delight — the lamb's lovely wool

vales — valleys

meek — gentle and humble

mild — soft, calm and kind

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who is speaking in the poem, and who is being spoken to?

2. List three gifts the speaker says the lamb was given in stanza 1.

3. How does the speaker answer the question "who made thee?" in stanza 2?

4. What do the child, the lamb and the creator have in common?

5. Read "The Tyger." How is its question different from the one in "The Lamb"?

WRITING PROMPT

Write a two-stanza poem to an animal. In stanza 1, ask it questions. In stanza 2, answer them.

The Lamb — Answer Key

1. A child is speaking to a little lamb.
2. Any three: life, food (“bid thee feed / By the stream”), “clothing of delight” (soft, bright wool) and “such a tender voice.”
3. “He is callèd by thy name, / For He calls Himself a Lamb”: the creator (Jesus, called the Lamb of God) shares the lamb’s name.
4. All are gentle and innocent: the creator “is meek, and He is mild” and “became a little child,” and “We are callèd by His name.”
5. “The Lamb” is sure and peaceful and answers its question; “The Tyger” asks who could make something so fierce and frightening, and never answers.

Read the full poem online: poetrycatalog.com/the-lamb-william-blake/