



ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

SECTION II

Total time—2 hours

Question 1¹

(Suggested Time—40 minutes. This question counts for one-third of the total essay section score.)

In the following poems, “The Lamb” and “The Tyger²” by William Blake (published in 1789 and 1784), the speaker observes and contemplates the traits of each creature. Read the poems carefully. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how Blake uses poetic elements and techniques to explore the complex relationship between the two poems.

The Lamb

From Songs of Innocence

Little Lamb who made thee
Dost thou know who made thee
Gave thee life & bid thee feed.
By the stream & o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing wooly bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the vales rejoice!
Little Lamb who made thee
Dost thou know who made thee

Little Lamb I'll tell thee,
Little Lamb I'll tell thee!
He is called by thy name,
For he calls himself a Lamb:
He is meek & he is mild,
He became a little child:
I a child & thou a lamb,
We are called by his name.
Little Lamb God bless thee.
Little Lamb God bless thee.

The Tyger

From Songs of Experience

Tyger Tyger, burning bright,
In the forests of the night;
What immortal hand or eye,
Could frame thy fearful symmetry?

In what distant deeps or skies.
Burnt the fire of thine eyes?
On what wings dare he aspire?
What the hand, dare seize the fire?

And what shoulder, & what art,
Could twist the sinews of thy heart?
And when thy heart began to beat,
What dread hand? & what dread feet?

What the hammer? what the chain,
In what furnace was thy brain?
What the anvil? what dread grasp,
Dare its deadly terrors clasp!

When the stars threw down their spears
And water'd heaven with their tears:
Did he smile his work to see?
Did he who made the Lamb make thee?

Tyger Tyger burning bright,
In the forests of the night:
What immortal hand or eye,
Dare frame thy fearful symmetry?

¹ Modified from an original version produced by Meghan Hobbs Chandler

² An archaic version of the word Tiger

A Garden of English Production

Complex Relationships

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Question 2

Suggested time—40 minutes

The following is the 1927 short story “Hills Like White Elephants” by Ernest Hemingway. In this passage, two lovers are having a conversation as they wait for a train to arrive. Read the short story. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how Hemingway uses literary elements and techniques to convey the complex relationship between the two characters.

You can find the full text here: <https://www.gvgsd.org/cms/lib/PA01001045/Centricity/Domain/765/HillsPDFText.pdf>

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Question 3

Suggested time—40 minutes

Relationships are complicated. Whether they are familial, romantic, or platonic, sometimes relationships may seem superficially ideal, yet be quite dysfunctional, or they may appear broken and tattered, while still being quite strong. Relationships may also be convoluted in a myriad of other ways.

Either from your own reading or from the list below, choose a work of fiction in which the main character is involved in a complex relationship. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how the complex relationship influences the main character throughout the story and contributes to an interpretation of the work as a whole.

1984

The Awakening

A Fault in our Stars

A Midsummer Night's Dream

A Streetcar Named Desire

Beloved

Brave New World

The Crucible

The Color Purple

East of Eden

Frankenstein

Gone with the Wind

Great Expectations

The Great Gatsby

Hamlet

Heart of Darkness

Jane Eyre

Oedipus Rex

Of Mice and Men

Oryx and Crake

Othello

Pride and Prejudice

The Purple Hibiscus

The Road

Romeo and Juliet

Their Eyes Were Watching God

The Scarlet Letter

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

Wuthering Heights

