

Two Londons

Both poems describe London. How do Blake and Wordsworth present the city?

NAME _____ CLASS _____ DATE _____

LEARNING GOAL

Plan an essay that compares how two poets present London.

SUCCESS CRITERIA

- ☐ I can compare form, viewpoint, imagery, tone and context.
- ☐ I can write a thesis that answers the question.
- ☐ I can plan paragraphs that use both poems each time.

1 Meet the two poems

READ

Read both poems in full first. Copy lines A to D exactly, old spellings and all, and use the letters in task 2.

London

— BY WILLIAM BLAKE · SONGS OF EXPERIENCE, 1794

A "I wander thro' each charter'd street, / Near
where the charter'd Thames does flow."

B "Marks of weakness, marks of woe."

Composed upon Westminster Bridge, September 3, 1802

— BY WILLIAM WORDSWORTH

C "Earth has not any thing to shew more fair:"

D "Dull would he be of soul who could pass by / A
sight so touching in its majesty:"

2 Compare the poems: notes in every box

THINK

10 marks

ASPECT	BLAKE: "LONDON"	WORDSWORTH: THE BRIDGE SONNET
Form How is it built?	<i>Four quatrains, so ...</i>	<i>A sonnet, so ...</i>
Viewpoint Who speaks, and where?		
Imagery What pictures?		
Tone What feeling?		
Context What we know	<i>Published 1794 in Songs of Experience ...</i>	<i>The title gives the date ...</i>

Build your argument



NAME _____ CLASS _____ DATE _____

3 Build your thesis

THINK

Step 1. Circle the idea your essay will be about, or add your own.

people control beauty calm power my own: _____

Step 2. Write your thesis: one clear answer to the question. Use the frame or your own words.

Both poets present London, but while Blake shows a city of ..., Wordsworth ...

CONNECTIVES BANK

TO COMPARE

Similarly · Likewise · In the same way · Both poets

TO CONTRAST

However · In contrast · Whereas · On the other hand · Conversely

TO BUILD

Furthermore · This is reinforced by · More strikingly

4 Draft your introduction

DRAFT

- 1 Name both poems and both poets.

Blake's "London" and Wordsworth's sonnet ...

- 2 Add one point of context for each poem.

- 3 End with your thesis from task 3.

5 Plan paragraph 1

PLAN

Follow the numbers. Use the suggested focus, or choose your own.

P1 Focus: form and structure MY CONNECTIVE _____

1 POINT *Both poets ...*

2 BLAKE *evidence and what it shows*

4 ANALYSIS *Whereas Blake ..., Wordsworth ...*

3 WORDSWORTH *evidence and what it shows*

Plan the body and the ending



NAME _____ CLASS _____

6 Plan paragraphs 2 and 3

PLAN

P2 Focus: imagery and language MY CONNECTIVE _____

1 POINT Both poets ...

_____2 BLAKE *evidence and what it shows*

_____4 ANALYSIS *In contrast, ...*

_____3 WORDSWORTH *evidence and what it shows*

P3 Focus: tone and viewpoint MY CONNECTIVE _____

1 POINT Both poets ...

_____2 BLAKE *evidence and what it shows*

_____4 ANALYSIS *On the other hand, ...*

_____3 WORDSWORTH *evidence and what it shows*

7 Draft your conclusion

DRAFT

- 1 Return to your thesis in new words.

Overall, both poems ...

- 2 Say which difference matters most, and why.

- 3 End on how each poet sees the city.

EDITOR'S CHECKLIST

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| ☐ Every paragraph uses both poems | ☐ Quotations copied exactly | ☐ A connective in every paragraph |
| ☐ Effects explained, not just named | ☐ Context linked to a point | ☐ Conclusion returns to the thesis |



GO FURTHER

Plan a short extra paragraph on one way the two poems are alike. Where would it fit in your essay?

