

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### *Discussion Prompts*

## **The Tyger**



*by William Blake*

Here are questions and statements to discuss with your partner. Use details and inferences from the poem to support your ideas. You may jot down notes on this page to remind you of your discussion.

1. Why does the poet ask lots of questions but offer no answers?
2. Why does the poet repeat the word “dare”?
3. Why does the author move from “could” in the last line of the first stanza to “dare” in the last line of the last stanza?
4. Why do you think the poet uses the phrase “fearful symmetry”?
5. What are the denotative and connotative meanings of this phrase? How do the connotative meanings help you understand a theme of the poem?
6. Why does the poet wonder if the creator of the tyger smiled?
7. What does the tyger symbolize? Brainstorm a list of the connotative and denotative meanings of this word.

List the words and phrases that match what the tyger symbolizes in this poem. Discuss your list with your partner and figure out the tone of the poem.

### **WRITTEN RESPONSE**

Choose one discussion prompt to write about in your notebook. Head a new page with the title and author of the poem. Write the prompt you chose below that, and then record notes that relate to the prompt: words and phrases from the poem, your ideas and feelings about the poem, things you noticed about the language and sounds of the poem, and so on. Then use your notes to write an informal paragraph in response to the prompt.