

The Chimney Sweeper

Two speakers -  
The little boy  
and the poet

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

Blake's  
cosmos: lamb =  
innocence

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

10 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 lock'd up in coffins of black; → the chimneys

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

nature =  
innocence,  
redemption,  
joy

20 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. *promise of  
kid in  
empty*

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

Angry -  
verbal irony.  
he means the opposite

1789

Indictment of flawed  
society - *connotation*  
to Thomas Paine's  
argument that people  
have intrinsic rights

This one is more disturbing  
than its counterpart -  
b/c he doesn't realize  
that he's on the  
road to corruption

ve, *↳ Irony - the church  
and the adult  
world ~~is~~ not doing  
their duty.*

ve, *The injustice of a  
religion & society  
that defines goodness  
in children as  
being pleasant  
about their  
exploitation,*