

## “MEETING THE YEAR OF THE TIGER”

### 1. Information about the author of the poem

**William Blake** (28 November 1757–12 August 1827) was an English poet, painter, and printmaker. Largely unrecognised during his lifetime, Blake is now considered a bright figure in the history of both the poetry and visual arts of the Romantic Age. His poetry has been said to form "what is in proportion to its merits (достоинства) the least read body of poetry in the English language". His visual artistry has led one British art journalist to proclaim him "far and away the greatest artist Britain has ever produced".

### 2. Listening for specific words

Task: "Listen and fill in the words from the box":

**hammer, smile, terrors, night, hand, shoulder, bright, tears, distant, heaven**

Audio file "Tyger"

<p>Tyger! Tyger! burning <b>1.</b> ...          In the forests of the <b>2.</b> ...          What immortal <b>3.</b> ... or eye          Could frame thy fearful symmetry?          In what <b>4.</b> ... deeps or skies          Burnt the fire of thine eyes?          On what wings dare he aspire?          What the hand dare seize thy fire?          And what <b>5.</b> ..., &amp; what art,          Could twist the sinews of thy heart?          And why thy heart began to beat,          What dread hand? &amp; what dread feet?</p>	<p>What the <b>6.</b> ...? what the chain?          In what furnace was thy brain?          What the anvil? what dread grasp          Dare its deadly <b>7.</b> ... grasp?          When the stars threw down their spears          And water'd <b>8.</b> ... with their <b>9.</b> ...,          Did he <b>10.</b> ... 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?</p>
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### 5. New words:

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Immortal- бессмертный</li> <li>2. Frame- создавать</li> <li>3. Thy- твой</li> <li>4. Fearful- пугающий</li> <li>5. Thine-твой</li> <li>6. Dare-сметь</li> <li>7. aspire –стремиться</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. sinew-сухожилие</li> <li>9. dread-устрашающий</li> <li>10. furnace-печь</li> <li>11. anvil- наковальня</li> <li>12. grasp-понять</li> <li>13. Lamb- ягненок</li> <li>14. Thee-тебе</li> </ol>
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### 6. Reading

**T:** "Below are some phrases that define words from the first two verses of the poem. Can you find the right words and phrases?"

#### First verse

1. Find a word or phrase that means 'living or lasting forever'.
2. Find a word or phrase that means 'fix a border around (something)'.
3. Find a word or phrase that means 'frightened or scared'.
4. Find a word or phrase that means 'the quality of having parts that match each other, esp. in a way that is attractive'.

#### Second verse

5. Find a word or phrase that means 'seas or oceans'.
6. Find a word or phrase that means 'your'.
7. Find a word or phrase that means 'be brave enough to do something difficult or dangerous'.
8. Find a word or phrase that means 'have a strong desire or hope to do or have something'.
9. Find a word or phrase that means 'take (something) quickly and keep or hold it'.

#### Third verse

1. Find a word or phrase that means 'turn (something), esp. repeatedly, or turn or wrap (one thing) around another'.
2. Find a word or phrase that means 'methods of support and strength'.
3. Find a word or phrase that means 'make a regular movement or sound'.
4. Find a word or phrase that means 'causing extreme anxiety or unhappiness about (something that is going to happen or might happen)'.

#### Fourth verse

5. Find a word or phrase that means '(a length of) esp. metal rings that are connected together and used for fastening, pulling, supporting, or limiting freedom'.
6. Find a word or phrase that means 'container which is heated to a very high temperature, so that substances that are put inside it, such as metal, will melt or burn'.
7. Find a word or phrase that means 'heavy block of iron on which heated pieces of metal are shaped by hammering them into objects'.
8. Find a word or phrase that means 'quickly take (something) esp. in your hand(s) and hold it firmly'.
9. Find a word or phrase that means 'able to kill'.

**Fifth verse**

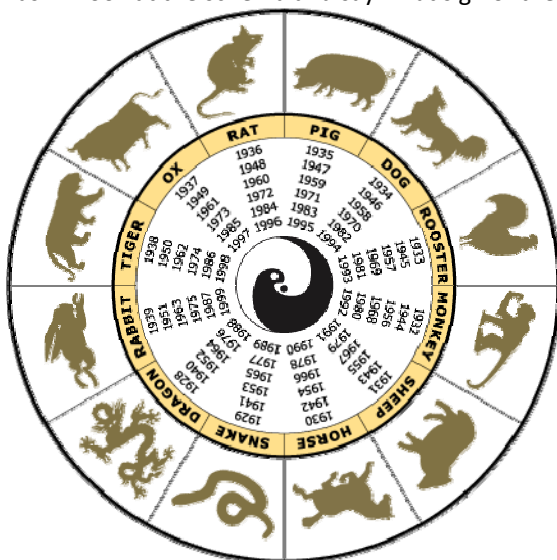
10. Find a word or phrase that means 'weapons consisting of a pole with a sharp, usually metal, point at one end'.
11. Find a word or phrase that means 'pour a clear liquid over something'.
12. Find a word or phrase that means 'drops of salty liquid which flow from the eye'.

**Answers**

1. immortal; 2. frame; 3. fearful; 4. symmetry; 5. deeps; 6. thine; 7. dare; 8. aspire; 9. seize  
1. twist; 2. sinews; 3. beat; 4. dread; 5. chain; 6. furnace; 7. anvil; 8. grasp; 9. deadly; 10. spears; 11. water; 12. tears

**7. Defining the Zodiac sign**

Task: Look at the schema and say what sign of the Chinese Zodiac you have.



**8. Discussion**

T: "Say what you know about your Zodiac sign."

**9. Announcing the home task**

**Make a monologue**

Give a 2-minute talk on Chinese Zodiac.

Remember to say:

- what year of Chinese Zodiac we entered
- what the legend says about Chinese Zodiac history
- what your personal characteristics according to the Zodiac are
- if this information is right, why/why not

**10. Reading**

**a. For labeling**

Read the text below and say in which order the animals arrived in the race.

New words:

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Clutch- hold                  | 9. Dragging-pulling                      |
| 2. To pant- to get out of breath | 10. Clinging-holding                     |
| 3. To waddle- идти в развалку    | 11. mighty-powerful                      |
| 4. Swiftly-fast                  | 12. A puff-a sigh                        |
| 5. Designated-definite           | 13. Hooves-a horse's feet                |
| 6. Snuck-got                     | 14. To rear up- to stand up on back legs |
| 7. lumbering-climbing            | 15. A weed- a river plant                |
|                                  | 16. A acorn-желудь                       |

8. To vow- to give the word

**The Legend of the Chinese Zodiac**

A long, long time ago the Jade Emperor wanted to find a means of measuring time, and so he organised a race, and invited all the animals to take part. When they had all lined up on the bank of the river the Emperor explained that to win the big prize - a permanent place in the Zodiac - they would have to be one of the first twelve to cross the swiftly flowing river and reach a designated spot on the opposite shore. Their order in the cycle would be decided by the order in which they finished the race. And so the race began.

The cat wondered how she would get across if she was afraid of water. At the same time, the ox wondered how he would cross with his poor eyesight. The rat suggested that he and the cat jump onto the ox's back and guide him across. But as they were crossing the river, the rat snuck up behind the unsuspecting cat and pushed her into the water. Just as the ox came lumbering ashore, the rat jumped off and raced over the line first, closely followed by the ox. By the time the cat had managed to save herself from drowning and reached the finishing line it was too late for her to win any place in the calendar, and so she vowed to be the enemy of the rat forever after.

After the ox came the tiger, out of breath as she explained to the emperor how difficult it had been to cross the river with the strong currents dragging her downstream all the time. But because she was so strong she had eventually made it to shore and so was named the third animal in the cycle.

Just then there was a flash of fur and whiskers, and out of nowhere appeared the rabbit. He explained that he had crossed the river by jumping onto a floating log that had at first moved rapidly downstream, but had then suddenly been washed to shore. Thus he became the fourth animal in the zodiac cycle.

Coming in fifth place was the dragon, flapping his great wings and breathing fire into the air. The Emperor was very interested to know to why such a great creature like the dragon, who could fly, hadn't managed to arrive first. The dragon explained that he had been close to finishing when he saw a poor helpless rabbit clinging to a log that was being washed downstream. He therefore stopped and gave a mighty puff of breath to blow the log to the shore. By the time this good deed had been done, four of the other animals had already arrived.

No sooner had the dragon reached the finish line than the sound of galloping hooves was heard and the horse appeared. Hidden in the horse's mane was the snake, who hissed and moved just before the horse crossed the line. The horse got such a shock that she reared up and before she could recover the snake had slithered off her back and crossed the line in sixth place, beating the horse into seventh.

Not long after that, the sheep, monkey and rooster reached the bank of the river together. These three animals had helped each other all through the race. The rooster had found some logs tied together, and invited the other two creatures to go with it. The sheep and the monkey had worked together to clear the weeds, pulled and pushed and eventually managed to get to the other side. This cooperation greatly pleased the Emperor and he promptly declared that the sheep was eighth, the monkey ninth, and the rooster tenth.

Some time later the dog arrived in eleventh place. The Emperor expressed surprise that it had taken her so long despite the fact she was a better swimmer than most of the other animals. The dog explained that it was precisely her love of the water that had delayed her – it had been so refreshing that she simply couldn't resist playing around for a while. Just as the emperor was wondering if no other animal would reach the finish, an oink, oink, oink was heard and of the pig came waddling into view. To nobody's surprise he related how he hadn't been able to resist the temptation of stopping and filling his belly with acorns. After that he had felt the need for a nap, and had only woken up a short time before. And so the pig became the twelfth and last animal of the zodiac cycle.

**b. For details**

For each question decide on the best answer depending on the information in the story.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. How did the rabbit's log get washed to shore?           | 6. Why did the Jade Emperor organize the race?  |
| a) The rabbit got hold of it and pushed                    | a) To find a way to calculate time  |
| b) The rabbit clutched it very tightly                     | b) Because it was his birthday  |
| c) The dragon blew it                                      | c) Because he like arranging contests   |
| 2. Why do cats hate rats?                                  | 7. Why did the dragon only come in fifth?   |
| a) Because the rat won the race                            | a) Because he helped the rabbit   |
| b) Because the rat pushed the cat into the river           | b) Because he could both swim and fly   |
| c) Because they were once good friends                     | c) Because he was out of breath   |
| 3. The dog only arrived in 11 <sup>th</sup> place because: | 8. Why did the snake beat the horse?  |
| a) She liked clean fresh river water                       | a) Because he was hiding in the horse's mane  |
| b) She had been having fun in the river                    | b) Because he scared the horse  |
| c) She was late, being one of the best swimmers            | c) Because he was shrewd (predicting) and slimy (covered with fat) and sneaked out (moved secretly) |
| 4. Why did the tiger have difficulty crossing the river?   | 9. The emperor was pleased with the sheep, monkey and rooster because:                              |
| a) Because the current was so strong                       |   |

b) Because she was panting so much

c) Because she was so powerful

5. Put the pig's actions in the correct order:

a) Waddled into view, stopped and ate, had a nap

b) Had a nap, stopped and ate, waddled into view

c) Stopped and ate, had a nap, waddled into view

**c. For matching**

**This is a table with the names of the animals and synonym adjectives. Can you match synonyms to each animal?**

1. dog	2. dragon	3. horse	4. monkey
5. ox	6. pig	7. rabbit	8. rat
9. rooster	10. sheep	11. snake	12. tiger

a. cheerful - <i>merry</i>	b. diligent- <i>hard-working</i>	c. fidgety- <i>restless</i>	d. fragile- <i>delicate</i>
e. heavenly- <i>celestial</i>	f. keen- <i>enthusiastic</i>	g. polite- <i>courteous</i>	h. powerful- <i>commanding</i>
i. prolific- <i>productive</i>	j. reliable- <i>loyal</i>	k. tactful- <i>diplomatic</i>	l. tender- <i>gentle</i>