

Name - _____

Start time - __ : __

End time - __ : __

Read the following poem carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Piping Down the Valleys Wild

Piping down the valleys wild,
Piping songs of pleasant glee !
On a cloud I saw a child,
And he laughing said to me :

‘Pipe a song about a Lamb !’
So I piped with merry cheer.
‘Drop thy pipe, thy happy pipe;
Sing the songs of happy cheer,’
So I sang the same again,
While he wept with joy to hear.

‘Piper, sit thee down, and write
In a book that all may read,’
So he vanish’d from my sight,
And I pluck’d a hollow-reed,
And I made-a rural pen,
And I stain’d the water clear,
And I wrote my happy songs
Every child may joy to hear.

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Questions:

1. Who is the child mentioned in the poem, and what does he ask the speaker to do?
2. What is the speaker describing in the poem?
3. Discuss the significance of the child's request to the speaker to "Pipe a song about a Lamb!" How does this request contribute to the poem's theme?
4. Identify instances of imagery in the poem. How do these images create a vivid picture in the reader's mind?
5. How does the act of writing with a "rural pen" and staining the water clear symbolize purity and innocence in the context of the poem?
6. How does the rhyme scheme contribute to the rhythm and flow of the poem?
7. Can you relate the experience of the speaker with the child and the lamb to a specific moment in your life? Explain your connection.
8. Why do you think the child asks the speaker to pipe a song about a lamb specifically? What might this choice signify about the child's innocence and imagination?