

ENGLISH



THE SCHOOL BOY

~Summary~

-by William Blake

“**The School Boy**” is a poem written by **William Blake**. The poem is divided into five stanzas. In the first stanza, he wakes to the sound of birds and enjoys the pleasant **summer** morning. However, the tone shifts in the later stanzas as he expresses his **dislike** of going to school. He says that the children spend their days in utter **despair** under the “**cruel eye**” of their teacher. The speaker also compares his plight to a **caged bird**, and a **tender plant** whose life has been plucked away. He also poses several **rhetorical questions** to his parents and society, expressing the **meaningless** life of young students.

According to the speaker, a school is a place where a child's **individuality** and **independence** are snatched away. Schools are often associated with **punishments** and **fear**. As a result, the child's wings of imagination and possibilities are restrained, and he is made to forget his “**youthful spring**”. The speaker asks his parents how can summer be enjoyable when there is a lot of **destruction** happening within him. He wonders how a plant can produce **fruit** when the bud and blossoms are plucked away. Likewise, how can a child grow into a talented and successful person if the very **childhood** is stolen away from them? The poem is a call to action against the constraining,

cage-like **educational system** and the intolerable **pressure** and **expectations** forced upon the kids by their parents.

~Conclusion~

The poem teaches us that being parents we shall take due care of our children. It is our duty to see that our children are happy, joyful, and free. If we want our generations to be happy and prosperous we need to make their childhood a happy one.