

The Chimney Sweeper (Songs of Experience) key Info

Writer: William Blake | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

Writer: William Blake (1757-1827)

Title of the Author: English poet and painter

Full Title: The Chimney Sweeper: A little black thing among the snow

Original Title: The Chimney Sweeper: A little black thing among the snow

Published Date: 1794, *Songs of Experience*.

Tone: Anger, Indignation, and social criticism

Genre: Poetry

Rhyme Scheme: The rhyme scheme in the poem is AABB – CCDD – EEFF. "The Chimney Sweeper" consists of three quatrains or four-line stanzas.

Total Lines: 12

Setting

Time Setting: Late 18th and 19th centuries.

Place Setting: The poem is set in England.

Important Note: Both "The Chimney Sweeper" poems portray the suffering of little children. They are sold into child labor at such a tender age. They are forced to clean people's chimneys. This is a very difficult and deadly job. The little chimney sweepers sleep in soot. They have completely lost their childhood joy. In the *Innocence* version, Tom, a little chimney sweeper, believes that if he obeys orders, God will protect him. He will always be happy. However, in the *Experience* version, this chimney sweeper is too experienced to believe that. He knows full well that his parents, society, and religion are responsible for his suffering.