



# The Garden of Love

William Blake

# ANSWERS

1. The reader will expect the speaker to enter an area/state of being that is open, free and beautiful. It is a place of peace and tranquility. /The allusion to the Biblical Garden of Eden creates the expectation of spiritual perfection and natural beauty. [2 marks awarded for one idea well discussed]
2. The Chapel should have offered a joyful experience. However, the speaker is indicating how the Chapel and, by implication, organized religion has intruded on his pleasant, carefree childhood memories. The line indicates Blake's disapproval of the invasive and destructive nature of authoritarian religion. [2 marks awarded for two relevant and distinct points]

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3. The words, 'gates' and 'shut' have connotations of restriction and loss of free will. In addition, they suggest a lack of welcome. The reprimand, 'Thou shalt not' alludes to the Old Testament/Ten Commandments which forbade certain behaviours and reinforces the sense of restriction. This accounts for the speaker's indignant/angry/disappointed/dismayed tone. [3 marks only awarded if tone is discussed]

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4. Instead of life flourishing ('flowers'), the garden is now associated with death as it is filled with 'graves' and 'tomb-stones'. The priests in black gowns are like sinister figures and patrol. These lines reflect the speaker's criticism of authoritarian religion's depriving one joy. He sees such religion as cruelly restrictive ('binding with briars my joys and desires') of individual freedom and fulfillment. [3 marks awarded for two ideas/interpretations well discusses]