

*Come, come, leave off play, and let us away
Till the morning appears in the skies.*

*"No, no, let us play, for it is yet day
"And we cannot go to sleep;
"Besides, in the sky the little birds fly
"And the hills are all cover'd with sheep."*

*"Well, well, go & play till the light fades away
"And then go home to bed.
The little ones leaped & shouted & laugh'd
And all the hills echoed.*

Summary:

- fits with the theme of innocence.
- Nurse who is overlooking some children playing in a field, tries to call them in, children are oblivious to dangers of playing outside a tight. Nurse of jovial and warmhearted nature, she allows children to continue with their games, no thought for wider consequences.

Structure:

- Four quatrains, ABCB, contains an internal rhyme in the third line of each stanza. Gives it a sing-song, childish quality.
- rest/breast rhyme in stanza 1- draws attention to peace and the motherly bosom, a place of comfort. All is well. play/away rhyme- freedom but also might be led away? sky/fly- carefree and innocent. Last stanza internal rhyme in first line- play till the light fades away.

Language/wider analysis

- last word- 'echoed'- something slightly ominous about it.
- Poem is joyful but there is something slightly worrying about children being allowed to play in the dark- joy and fun to be found in the innocent perspective but not wisdom.
- No suggestion of alienation between either children and their world, or of man and nature. Everything harmonious and wonderful.
- Main theme- innocent and simple, though they do not know better- a subtle warning can be gleaned.
- Thinking of themselves as part of nature, celebration of children's innocence, at one with nature and so much happiness. an innocent world is a very idyllic one where nothing can go wrong and all is wonderful. Approaching the world with optimism, don't think of the coming night but the last moments of daylight still to be enjoyed.
- The nurse can share in this childish innocence as she watches the children play. She can regain her innocence. An angelic, guardian presence, apart from the children but supports their innocence rather than tainting it.
- More likeable than in the 'experience' counterpart, but too trusting perhaps. Is being likeable really the most important thing?

The Little Black Boy- William Blake

*My mother bore me in the southern wild,
And I am black, but O! my soul is white;
White as an angel is the English child:
But I am black as if bereav'd of light.*

*My mother taught me underneath a tree
And sitting down before the heat of day
She took me on her lap and kissed me,
And pointing to the east began to say.*

*Look on the rising sun: there God does live
And gives his light, and gives his heat away.
And flowers and trees and beasts and men receive
Comfort in morning joy in the noonday.*