**Innocence or Experience? Read the two poems. Answer the questions.**

**Nurse's Song I**

When the voices of children are heard on the green,

And whisperings are in the dale,

The days of my youth rise fresh in my mind,

My face turns green and pale.

Then come home, my children, the sun is gone down,

And the dews of night arise;

Your spring and your day are wasted in play,

And your winter and night in disguise.

<http://www.poetryloverspage.com>

**Nurse’s Song II**  
  When the voices of children are heard on the green,  
   And laughing is heard on the hill,  
 My heart is at rest within my breast,  
   And everything else is still.  
 "Then come home, my children, the sun is gone down,  
   And the dews of night arise;  
 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 covered with sheep."  
 "Well, well, go and play till the light fades away,  
   And then go home to bed."  
 The little ones leaped, and shouted, and laughed,  
   And all the hills echoed.

<http://www.nimbi.com>

1. Underline words in each poem that are negative.
2. Circle words in each poem that are positive.
3. In poem I, what is the difference between “green” in line 1 and “green” in line 4?
4. How might “whisperings” be both positive and negative?
5. In poem I what is implied by linking “spring” and “day”, and then “winter” and “night”?
6. How are “play” and “disguise” similar?
7. How might the meaning change if the nurse had said “the dews of the morning” or “dews of evening”?
8. What’s with all the little birds and sheep? Why do you think Blake uses those animals? Why not bunnies, or butterflies, or puppies?
9. NOW: Which one is a song of experience, which is a song of innocence? How do you know? Remember, Blake’s Innocence is awareness of evil while choosing the good.