About William Blake

* Link between romantic influences and gothic lit
* People did not accept his ideas
* It was uncommon for a middle class family to support their child choosing a artistic career
* Father bought him Greek antique art for inspiration
* That would be the rough modern day equivalent of painting at 90-95 today

Key themes

* Notice that the person on the right is holding a child, but the creature on the right is reaching for it – This is symbolic of life and death.
* Notice on one side that there is fire behind the creature but yet there is a rising sun behind the person – This is represents the tortures of hell opposing new life as the sun rising marks the start of a new day
* Notice also how the creature is in fact chained down, showing the creatures lack of freedom and restraint but yet this is contrasted with the ocean on the other side. The ocean could be symbolic of sanctuary as it is cool, calm, relaxing and the waves are rhythmic.
* Some critics believe that restraint on the creatures ankle is a metaphor, expressing that without law, reason, and our conscience to restrain us, that we would do the devils bidding ie. Sin.
* Now the title is the most controversial, out of the theme interpretations. This is due to the fact that Blake refers to both beings in the artwork as angels. Some interpret this as it saying that within evil there can be good too, some say it represents that in the modern would there is no such thing as an angelic human, that everyone is affect by evil.

Link to gothic literature

* Morbid underlying themes include, death, hell and Evil
* There is a clear representation of good directly opposing and evil force as in it is not indirect
* There are some beyond human forces featured
* And due to death being such a prevalent feature our sense of morality is affected in this case by the child avoiding death but in the case of gothic literature the gore exhibited

Thank you for watching