

### Investigate! *A Better Resurrection*

#### Investigating *A Better Resurrection*

- ❖ According to the New Testament letter to the Hebrews, 'faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see (Hebrews 11:1)
  - What comments, if any, do you think *A Better Resurrection* makes about faith?
  - What comments do you think that the poem makes about hope?

#### Investigating the source

- ❖ How far do you think that the speaker aligns herself with the tortured believers spoken of in Hebrews 11:35?
  - Think about their refusal to be 'released so that they might gain an even better resurrection'
  - What evidence do you base your answer on?
- ❖ The poem's title comes from a Bible passage which specifically speaks of *women* receiving their dead back to life
  - Do you think that this is important?

#### Investigating language and tone

- ❖ *A Better Resurrection* is a lyric poem. Traditionally, lyric poems are more concerned with exploring and expressing emotion than with any particular historical or social context
  - As a lyric, how is *A Better Resurrection* accessible to twenty-first century readers?
  - You may like to think about how emotion is privileged over literal description
- ❖ The poem begins 'I' and is scattered with personal pronouns
  - Do you think this gives it more or less of a personal feel?
  - How far can you identify with the speaker?

#### Investigating metre and refrain

- ❖ Read the poem aloud and pick out the references to the act of falling and rising
  - How do you think that the metre that is used captures this sense of movement?
    - List some examples from the poem and comment on the effect that is created.

# Investigate! The poetry of Christina

## Rossetti: A Better Resurrection

### Investigate!

#### A Better Resurrection

##### Investigating rhyme

- ❖ Look at the rhyme scheme
  - What is the effect it creates?
- ❖ What ideas does the rhyme scheme draw the reader's attention to?
- ❖ Why do you think that certain rhymes are carried from one verse to the next?

##### Investigating imagery and symbolism

- ❖ List all the images and symbols used in the poem
  - Which symbols appear the most unusual?
    - Why?
  - Do you think that Rossetti wants to surprise the reader?
- ❖ How important are symbols conveying ideas of sight to the poem?
  - What things does the speaker fail to see?
    - What effect does this have on her emotions?
  - What does she suggest will restore her sight?

##### Investigating themes

- ❖ What do you understand the speaker to mean when she claims that her eyes are 'dimmed with grief'?

- How effective do you find this image?
- ❖ How hopeful do you find the conclusion to the poem?
  - the identity of the speaker?