

Investigating *Echo*

- ❖ What are your associations with the word 'echo'?
 - Do you see these associations shared by the speaker of the poem?
- ❖ List any indications you can find that the person the speaker addresses is already dead
- ❖ Can you identify any features of *Echo* that are timeless and relevant for the reader / listener of any era?
- ❖ Why do you think that the poem has been popular with those who wish to set Rossetti's works to music?
 - How do the effects of listening to the poem differ from the effects of reading it silently?

Investigating language and tone

- ❖ Read through the poem again and think about the speaker
 - What are your initial thoughts about the gender of the poetic voice?
 - What characteristics are usually associated with the female voice?
 - What characteristics are usually associated with the male voice?

- Do you notice any indications that the speaker is female?
- Do you think that the voice can be interpreted as male?

Investigating structure and versification

- ❖ Re-read the poem aloud and write down anything interesting you notice about the changes in rhythm
 - How do these changes correspond to the changes in the tone of the speaker?
- ❖ How far do you think that the structure of the poem contributes to its overall meaning?

Investigating imagery and symbolism

- ❖ Consider the contrast between those who are 'brimful of love' and those who are 'thirsting'
 - What makes the difference between the two states?

Investigating themes

- ❖ What evidence can you find to support the idea that the speaker's main concern is with the fulfilment of his/her desire? How would you characterise the tone of the poem?

Investigate! The poetry of Christina

Rossetti: *Echo*

- ❖ Look through the other poems included in Texts in Detail: The poetry of Christina Rossetti
 - What common themes can you find?
 - How does *Echo* reflect some of these themes?
- ❖ How can an understanding of the use of an image in one poem contribute to the use of the image in another?
- ❖ Think about the symbolism of the door.

