

Investigate! *Goblin Market*

Investigating *Goblin*

Market

- ❖ Rossetti's initial title for her poem was *A Peep at the Goblins*
 - What do you think the word 'peep' suggests?
- ❖ The speaker recalls, 'Lizzie covered up her eyes, / Covered close lest they should look' (l. 50-51).
 - What does this statement say about the dangers of curiosity and temptation?
 - Which title do you prefer?
- ❖ Why?
- ❖ Why do you think that Rossetti chose the title *Goblin Market*?

Investigating language and tone

- ❖ Think about the descriptions of sight and sound in the poem
 - How do the goblins make their fruit sound alluring?
 - Why do you think that Laura can no longer hear the cry of the goblin men?
- ❖ Highlight and link together words of sight, sound and taste
 - What do you notice about how they are combined throughout the poem?

Investigating structure and versification

- ❖ Choose a passage and describe how the metre it uses works to reinforce the tone of the speaker
- ❖ Consider the rhyme schemes that are used throughout the poem
 - Where does the rhyme work to increase the pace at which the poem is read?
- ❖ Describe the effect of enjambment throughout the poem.

Investigating imagery and symbolism

- ❖ Which of the following symbols do you find the most striking?
 - Fire
 - Roots and shoots
 - Honey from the rock
 - A lily in a flood
 - A rock of blue-veined stone
 - A beacon left alone
 - A fruit-crowned orange tree
- Why?
 - What do they say about Lizzie's character?
 - What do they indicate about growth?

Investigate! The poetry of Christina

Rossetti: *Goblin Market*

- Which words indicate strength?
- ❖ Think about the depiction of colour here
 - Where else in the poem is colour used?
 - What is the effect of this?

Investigating themes

- ❖ In what ways is Laura's hair a commodity?
 - What do you think it signifies?
- ❖ In her depiction of the marketplace, what comments do you think that Rossetti is making about Victorian society?