

Investigating *Jessie Cameron*

- ❖ What are your expectations when you think about a Victorian poem about courtship or marriage?
 - How far does this poem fit, or challenge, these expectations?
- ❖ Think about the representation of Jessie throughout the poem
 - How is she perceived by the narrator?
 - How is she perceived by her neighbours?
 - What are her main characteristics?
 - How does the presentation of Jessie differ from the presentation of her lover?

Investigating language and tone

- ❖ Find some other examples of sibilance and alliteration in the poem
 - What effect is created?
 - Consider how the words that are alliterated are linked
- ❖ Compare the words of Jessie to the words of her lover
 - Do you notice anything unusual?
 - Do you empathise with either character?

Investigating structure and versification

- ❖ Re-read the fourth verse aloud and mark all the stresses
 - What do you notice?
- ❖ How does the metre contribute to the delivery of the verse?
 - How does the metre correspond to
 - The sweeping of the sea?
 - The conversation between Jessie and her lover?

Investigating imagery and symbolism

- ❖ Note down all the references to the sea and the beach that you can find
 - What sort of representation do these references give of the forces of the natural world?
 - How do they add to the tone of the poem?
- ❖ Re-read the characterisation of Jessie in the second verse
 - How does this characterisation correspond to the landscape in which she is depicted?

Investigating themes

- ❖ Can you identify any indications that the neighbours the poem described were fearful of the grandmother?
- ❖ What effect does the grandmother's presumed witchcraft have on the narrative?