

# Investigate! The poetry of Christina

## Rossetti: Remember

### Investigate! Remember

#### Investigating *Remember*

- ❖ What are your expectations of a love poem?
  - Do you consider *Remember* to be a love poem?
- ❖ What different emotions does it express?
- ❖ What indications of comfort do you find in the poem?
- ❖ Is there anything you find disturbing or unexpected on a first reading of the poem?
- ❖ Considering *Remember*, how appropriate do you think Dante Gabriel's description of the sonnet as a 'coin' is?
  - What are the implications of this image?

#### Investigating language and tone

- ❖ What indications are there that the speaker's statement (that it would be better for the beloved to forget than to remember and be sad l.13-14) is genuine?
- ❖ How would you describe the tone of the speaker?
  - Can you identify any places where the tone changes?
- ❖ What is the effect of using direct and simple language?

#### Investigating structure and versification

- ❖ Note that the word 'if' is stressed twice in the sestet.
  - What is the effect of this?
- ❖ Consider the words that are rhymed
  - How can they be linked to create another level of meaning?

#### Investigating imagery and symbolism

- ❖ What do you associate with the phrase 'darkness and corruption'?
  - How can you relate these associations to the meaning of the poem?
- ❖ What do think that Rossetti means when speaking of 'the silent land'?
  - What do you imagine this place to consist of?

#### Investigating themes

- ❖ Why do you think that the speaker uses the phrase 'gone away' (l. 1) rather than stating explicitly where she has gone?
  - What effect does this create?
- ❖ Why do you think that the speaker changes her mind about being remembered in the last part of the poem?
- ❖ Would you recommend the poem to someone who is grieving?