

Investigating *Summer is Ended*

- ❖ Why do you think that Rossetti chose to derive her title directly from a passage in the Bible?
- ❖ How effective do you think that the poem is as a warning?
- ❖ What stylistic or poetic techniques are used to create the effect that you think Rossetti intends to achieve?
- ❖ Why do you think that the poem is not more explicit about the end times to which it alludes?
- ❖ What similarities are immediately apparent in a consideration of both '*Summer is Ended*' and *The Lowest Room*?
 - What differences are apparent?

Investigating language and tone

- ❖ How would you describe the tone of '*Summer is Ended*'?
- ❖ How do you think that the question, 'who knows?' (l. 3) would be asked?
- ❖ Do you think the tone of the speaker changes at any point during the poem?

Investigating structure and versification

- ❖ Consider the appearance of the poem on the page
 - What do you notice?
- ❖ How does the metrical pattern in the second verse of '*Summer is Ended*' vary from the pattern used in the first?

Investigating imagery and symbolism

- ❖ Is there anything that surprises you about the imagery and symbolism used in the poem?
- ❖ What associations do you have with the idea of a rose?
 - How are these associations met in '*Summer is Ended*'?
- ❖ What associations do you have with the idea of the end of summer?
 - How are these associations met in the poem?

Investigating themes

- ❖ Can you identify any significant lessons that are conveyed in the poem?
- ❖ The speaker's use of the image of the faded rose is ambiguous
 - What do you think that s/he means by the word 'bliss'?
 - Do you think that s/he is talking about the happiness to be enjoyed on earth, the pleasures of heaven, or both?