

#### **Investigating *Up-hill***

- ❖ *Up-hill* was immensely popular with early readers
  - Why do you think that so many people enjoyed this particular poem?
- ❖ What do you think that it is about?
- ❖ What are the difficulties and dangers of travelling long distances on foot?
  - In these circumstances, how comforting is it to meet other people who are in the same situation?
- ❖ With which of the speaker's questions do you most sympathise?
- ❖ How comforting are the answers she receives, do you think?

#### **Investigating language and tone**

- ❖ How comfortable do you think the speaker is in asking difficult questions?
- ❖ What indications can you find to suggest that the tone of the conversation is informal?
- ❖ Can you identify any signs that the speaker asks the questions in a state of panic?
- ❖ Compare the tone of the questioner to the tone of the respondent.

#### **Investigating structure and versification**

- ❖ Look at the appearance of the poem on the page
  - What does the regular and formal looking structure suggest?
- ❖ Re-read the poem aloud
  - Identify places in which the iambic metre is broken
    - How does this affect the way the poem is read or understood?
    - What does it reveal about the questioner or the respondent?

#### **Investigating imagery and symbolism**

- ❖ What associations do you have with travelling on foot?
  - Are these associations met in *Up-hill*?
- ❖ What images do you find the most surprising?
- ❖ To what extent does the answer that there are 'beds for all who come' offer reassurance to the speaker?

#### **Investigating themes**

- ❖ List the specific doubts of the questioner

# Investigate! The poetry of Christina

## **Rossetti:** *Up-hill*

- ❖ What, if anything, is s/he certain of?
- ❖ How would you describe his/her questions?
- ❖ How would you describe the answers s/he receives?

