

✕ Refers to links on www.crossref-it.info

Investigating commentary on *Hush, hush! tread softly!*

- ❖ Do you agree with the description of this poem as a 'light-hearted love lyric'?
 - What elements could be said to be 'light-hearted'?
 - What are its 'lyrical' qualities?
- ❖ Can you find anything in the poem which supports the suggestion that the poem springs from Keats' own emotional attachment to a young woman?

Investigating language and tone of *Hush, hush! tread softly!*

- ❖ How does Keats use language to suggest urgency and danger?
- ❖ What elements of humour can you find in the poem?
 - Why do you think Keats includes them?
 - Do they diminish the poem's emotional impact – or do they enhance it?
- ❖ How does Keats use language to enhance the drama of the situation?
- ❖ How successful do you think Keats is at creating dialogue?

Investigating structure and versification of *Hush, hush! tread softly!*

- ❖ Do you agree that the form of the poem is successful at conveying the anxiety of the speaking voice?
- ❖ How does Keats use pauses to create a sense of drama?
- ❖ How and why does Keats vary the rhythms of the poem?

- ❖ What contrasts can you find between swiftly moving lines and those that carry more weight and emphasis?

Investigating imagery and symbolism of *Hush, hush! tread softly!*

- ❖ What is the effect of all the personification in the poem?
- ❖ What is the effect of all the nature imagery?
- ❖ How does the use of imagery help to shape your responses to the young lovers and to the jealous old man?

Investigating themes of *Hush, hush! tread softly!*

- ❖ What evidence can you find to support the idea that the poem celebrates the energy of young love?
- ❖ To what extent do you think that nature is an important theme in the poem?
- ❖ 'At its most fundamental the poem is about life versus death.' Do you agree with this view – or do you think it loads too much significance on what is really a light-hearted poem?