

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

Investigating *A Poison Tree*

- ❖ In a poem of plot and counter plot, what does the word 'glad' tell you about the picture of humanity being painted here?

Investigating language and tone

- ❖ Try re-reading the poem in the third person (substituting s/he and his/her, for I and my etc.)
 - In the light of that, do you think that the emphasis on 'I' 'my' and 'mine' makes a significant contribution to the meaning and tone of the poem?

Investigating structure and versification

- ❖ How would you answer someone who argued that Blake is simply using a popular form here?
- ❖ Make notes on the ways in which the speaker comes across as a child and also as very adult.

Investigating imagery and symbolism

- ❖ Look at the image of the tree in *The Human Abstract*
 - Do you see any links with the tree in this poem?

Investigating themes

- ❖ Are there any other poems in the *Songs of Innocence and Experience* which seem to you to be closely linked to the theme of traps and imprisonment?