

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

Investigating *Nurse's Song (I)*

- ❖ Compare the nurse in this poem with the old people in *The Ecchoing Green*
 - What do they have in common?

Investigating language and tone

- ❖ Try replacing the nurse's words to the children by those which suggest her authority over them
 - What difference in tone and mood do you find?

Investigating structure and versification

- ❖ How effective do you find the pattern of echoes in suggesting the closeness between the children and the nurse?

Investigating imagery and symbolism

- ❖ In what ways do the associations with green reinforce the emphasis on growth and freedom in the children's play and nurse's response?
- ❖ How do you interpret the Nurse's response in the final stanza?
- ❖ In the light of this, how 'dark' do you feel your reading of the poem should be?

Investigating themes

- ❖ Compare the portrayal of authority here with the rule of *The Shepherd*.