

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

Investigating attitudes to race

- ❖ Discuss whether you think this poem has any valid arguments against racism.

Investigating language and tone

- ❖ On a sheet of paper jot down the words associated with:
 - Clouds
 - Light and shade
 - Sun
 - Heat
 - Sunburn
- Around each, note the different associations we have with them
 - Which of these associations does Blake employ in *The Little Black Boy*?

Investigating structure and versification

- ❖ Find another poem in ballad form and compare the two poems
 - What effect does the rhyme and rhythm of this poem produce?
 - Do you find any differences in tone and effect compared to the other ballad?
 - What do you think is responsible for this difference?

Investigating imagery and symbolism

- ❖ What do you think the allusion to the *Song of Songs* 1:6 adds to the poem?
 - ✕ <http://crossref-it.info/bible/song-of-songs/1>
 - ✕ <http://crossref-it.info/textguide/songs-of-innocence-and-experience/13/1478>

Investigating themes

- ❖ What new ideas about innocence do you gain from this poem?