

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

Investigating *The Little Girl Lost*

- ❖ This is not an easy poem – how do your ideas about its meaning when you first read it compare with what is suggested here?

✕ <http://crossref-it.info/textguide/songs-of-innocence-and-experience/13/1553>

- ❖ What do you now think it means?

Investigating language and tone

- ❖ Note down your initial associations with these terms:
 - Beasts of prey
 - Lion
 - Leopard
 - Tiger
 - Lioness

Now note how Blake presents them

- What do you think is the reason for the difference?
- Is the word 'hallow'd' significant?

Investigating structure and versification

- ❖ Do you find the regularity of the verse is predictable and lulls you into not thinking about the content?

- ❖ Or does it help you to appreciate the way in which the poem challenges expectations?
 - Try to give reasons for your opinion.

Investigating imagery and symbolism

- ❖ Would the poem be as effective if you only took 'desert' and 'garden' as natural symbols of barrenness, fertility and growth?
- ❖ What do you think Blake is conveying through the sexual / animal imagery?

Investigating themes

- ❖ Compare the image of the parents here with that of the nurse in *The Nurse's Song* (I).