

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

Investigating the portrayal of shepherds

- ❖ Think about any other poem, play or even nursery-rhyme that involves a shepherd or shepherdess
 - How far does the shepherd in this poem seem like or unlike that shepherd?
 - What are the similarities?
 - What are the differences?

Investigating language and tone

- ❖ List the words used to describe the children and those describing birds
 - In what ways are they similar?
 - What do they suggest to you?

Investigating structure and versification

- ❖ Do you agree that the emphasis on the idea of praise focuses our attention on the lamb-ewe relationship?
 - If so, why do you think Blake wishes to shift our attention in this way?

Investigating imagery and symbolism

- ❖ Read Psalm 23:1-6
 - ✕ <http://crossref-it.info/bible/psalms/23>

- Make a list of the links you can find between this psalm and *The Shepherd*

Investigating themes

- ❖ How does the following view of authority relate to your own views about it:
 - 'the shepherd is someone who is alongside, but does not rule his flock. His care does not repress or direct the sheep but enables them to live fully as sheep'?
- ❖ What is your reaction to Blake's vision of what the authority of God looks like?
 - Watch for new and possibly contradictory views in the other poems.