

# Investigate! Hopkins: *Hurrahing in Harvest*

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### ❖ **Setting the scene:**

Try to recall some autumn scenes you have seen in the past.

- Can you remember the weather and the atmosphere?

### ❖ **Going deeper:**

- What do you think 'eyes' and 'heart' symbolise in the sonnet?
- ll.7,8 are difficult.
  - Can you paraphrase them?
- Is the poem a quietly contemplative one?
  - If not, which words convey a sense of energy and action?
- What other poem uses the word 'hurl'?

### ❖ **Themes:**

- What is the difference between spectating and beholding?
- Nature gives us a 'realer' reply to what question?

### ❖ **Imagery and symbolism:**

- Work out fully the visual description of l.4.

- Can you find any other examples of personification?

### ❖ **Language and tone:**

Pick out other examples of alliterating word clusters.

- Which ones do you find memorable?

### ❖ **Structure and versification:**

- See if you can scan ll.4,14.
- Try reading l.9 in various ways, putting stresses where you would expect them to be (as opposed to where Hopkins might have placed them), and putting pauses where you think best.
  - What seems to you the better reading?
- Try reading the poem dramatically; then lyrically (i.e. with a much smoother, more regular rhythm).
  - Which do you prefer?
- Find two other examples of enjambement.
  - Can you see what effect they have on both the rhythm and the emphasis of the poem?