

# Investigate!

## Hopkins: *The Windhover*

### ❖ **Setting the scene:**

- What other poems about birds can you think of?
- Do you know anyone who is a falconer?
  - What do you think the fascination of hunting birds is?

### ❖ **Going deeper:**

- Think about these three meanings for 'buckle'.
  - Which seems to you the most natural reading?
  - Or do you think Hopkins was deliberately ambiguous?
- What do you think 'heart in hiding' refers to?
- Can you explain what is 'dangerous'?

### ❖ **Themes:**

John Keats stated: 'Beauty is truth, truth beauty,' – that is all / Ye know on earth, and all ye need to know. (*On a Grecian Urn*)

- Do you think Hopkins would agree with this?

### ❖ **Imagery and symbolism:**

- What images stand out to you?

- Would you say the images are visual, or is it more the associations they have which makes them memorable?
  - If associational, what are the associations for you?
- From all that has been said, what do you think the bird symbolises for Hopkins?

### ❖ **Language and tone:**

- What other verbal devices not discussed so far have caught your eye?
- Do you detect any change of tone in the poem?
  - What about 'ah my dear' - who is this addressed to?

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

- Take any line not so far discussed, and see if you can analyse its metre, stresses and pauses.
  - What effects do you think Hopkins is seeking to create?
- The poem as a whole: This is a difficult poem and maybe you have spent some hours puzzling it out.
  - Do you feel rewarded by your efforts?
  - Do you feel you understand Hopkins' conflict?
  - Do you think he has resolved it?