

Investigate! Hopkins: *The Wreck of the*

Deutschland: Going deeper, Stanzas 1-5

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Hopkins: *The Wreck of the Deutschland*: Going deeper, Stanzas 1-5

❖ Stanza 1:

- Look at the term 'master' in stanzas 10, 19, 21, 28, 32.
 - What associations do you have with the word?
 - Do these seem to be the same as Hopkins'?
 - Or does Hopkins seem to have another view of mastery?
- What other descriptions of God's power or omnipotence are there in this first verse?
- Which reading of 'World's strand' do you prefer?
 - Or can you see another meaning?
- What do you understand by the word 'dread'?
- In what sense could God (or the sacred) cause people dread?

❖ Stanza 2:

- Pick out the verbs and nouns of conflict and movement.
 - Are there any unusual ones?
 - What physical sensations did Hopkins have?
- Would you say Hopkins was a willing convert?

❖ Stanza 3:

Pick out words that seem particularly dramatic to you.

- What sort of emotions do they convey?

- Who is being addressed in this stanza?
- Why do you think Hopkins repeats 'where?' in l.3?

❖ Stanza 4:

- In what ways do the images of sand and water anticipate the account of the shipwreck in Part II?
- Can you see the play on words, or pun, in the word 'fast'?
 - Do you see any other plays on words?

❖ Stanza 5:

- What have you learned about Hopkins the man over these five stanzas?
- Contrast the revelation of God in stanza 5 with the revelation of God in earlier stanzas.
 - How is the contrast expressed in the language used?