

# Investigate!

## Hopkins: *The Wreck of the Deutschland*: Structure and versification

### ❖ **Stanza structure:**

- Examine the last line of stanza 31.
  - How many syllables has it?
  - Where would you put the stresses?
    - Remember 'shipwrack' would count as a compound.
- Now compare the last line of the previous stanza.
  - Can you find even 6 feet for it?
- What comments would you make on the flexibility of Hopkins' verse?

### ❖ **Alliterative patterns:**

- Take several other last lines.
  - See where the caesura comes, and what the alliterative pattern is.
- Now take some of the pentameters (5-stressed lines).
  - Can you see a similar pattern or not?
- Hopkins' flexible structure enables whole stanzas to vary greatly, not just individual lines.
  - Compare stanza 30 with 31.

- How do the two stanzas contrast?
- How does Hopkins achieve this?
- Look also at the enjambement.

### ❖ **Rhymes:**

Take three other stanzas and establish the rhyme schemes.

- Are the rhymes masculine or feminine?

### ❖ **Metre:**

- Can you see in stanza 30 where the metre does change in each line?
- How many lines merely have a first foot inversion of a rising or iambic metre?
  - Would you really say the metre is falling or rising or a mixed metre?
  - Can you see how this affects the rhythm?
- Hopkins said that poetry needs to be read out loud.
  - Have you found it easier to analyse and understand when you have done this yourself or heard a good reader read it?
- Has this experimental verse helped you understand some of Hopkins' techniques and ideas of poetry more clearly?