











Rosetti: (c) *Maude Clare*

 refers to links on www.crossref-it.info

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- ❖ **Lesson focus:** To examine the poem, and to explore how the telling of the story has developed in Rossetti's hands.
- ❖ **Opening exercise:** Read the ballad *Lord Thomas and Lady Ellinor* from **c)i Worksheet**
 - (There are other versions available on the internet, and a sung version by Martin Carthy on the album *Straws In The Wind*.)
 -  Rossetti > *Maude Clare* > Language, tone and structure > Structure and versification > A ballad
- ❖ **Discussion ideas:** Read the poem aloud with different students reading the five different voices
 - You will need
 - Thomas' mother
 - Maude Clare
 - Thomas
 - Nell
 - Narrator (there could be some discussion of who the narrator is)
 - What differences are there compared to the original ballad?
 - Note also that Rossetti's earlier versions had Maude Clare refer scornfully to the bride's wealth, and was shortened from 41 stanzas to 15, and then to 12.
 - What typical concerns of Rossetti's are drawn out in this final version?
 -  Rossetti > *Maude Clare* > Synopsis and commentary > Commentary > Textual history
 -  Rossetti > *Maude Clare* > Imagery, symbolism and themes > Themes
- ❖ **Textual Examination:** Look at the narrative techniques which have been used in the telling of this story.
 - Let students consider these questions before discussing their answers
 - a) How, and why, is so much dialogue used?
 -  Rossetti > *Maude Clare* > Language, tone and structure > Language and tone
 - b) i) What is the effect of having so little description?
 - ii) And what description is there?
 - c) What images are used?
 -  Rossetti > *Maude Clare* > Imagery, symbolism and themes > Imagery
 - d) How effectively are the characters created?
- ❖ **Recreative task:** Hot seat the characters
 - The class should have some time to prepare some questions first
 - A little more imaginatively, set them up as participators on a Jeremy Kyle-type TV show.
 -  Rossetti > *Maude Clare* > Language, tone and structure > Language and tone
 -  Rossetti > *Maude Clare* > Language, tone and structure > Structure and versification > Comparisons
- ❖ **Critical task:** Rossetti takes one comparatively small part of the original story, and concentrates on it
 - What do you think is the attraction of this focus for Rossetti?
 - Is she most interested in the inter-female rivalry and betrayal?
 -  Rossetti > Themes and significant ideas > Women
- ❖ **Extension task:** Research Victorian attitudes to marriage
 - What restrictions did women have?
 - What advantages were there in marrying?
 -  Rossetti > *Maude Clare* > Synopsis and commentary > Commentary > Women and Victorian marriage
 - Look at Rossetti's own experience, and that of other literary figures (eg: Mary Ann Evans aka George Eliot)