










# Songs of Innocence And Experience: (a)

## Introduction

### Songs of Innocence And Experience: (a) Introduction

 refers to links on [www.crossref-it.info](http://www.crossref-it.info)

- ❖ **Lesson focus:** To examine how the opening poems provide an introduction to the collection.
- ❖ **Opening exercise:** Divide the students into pairs. Provide each pair with a book for young children, and an adult novel
  - One of the pair writes an introduction for the children's book, and the other for the book for adults
    - They should write 120-150 words
  - Compare the approaches / language etc. used and discuss around the whole class.
- ❖ **Textual examination:** Read the two poems entitled *Introduction*
  - Highlight or list what you consider to be the key words or phrases in each poem
    - Aim to identify about 8-10 from each poem (so that students have to be selective)
  - Write suggestions on the board, keeping one poem on one side and the second poem on the other half
  - Draw lines to connect any words which you think are linked in some way  
(  Synopses and commentary > *Songs of Innocence* > *Introduction* (I)  
(  Synopses and commentary > *Songs of Experience* > *Introduction* (E))
- ❖ **Discussion ideas:** Discuss the words and phrases chosen in the above exercise, and any links
  - Think about how the language affects the tone of each poem, and how it works together with the structure and rhythm of each
  - What is the effect of the words or phrases which are repeated in each poem?  
(  Synopses and commentary > *Songs of Innocence* > *Introduction* (I) > Language, tone and structure)  
(  Synopses and commentary > *Songs of Experience* > *Introduction* (E) > Language, tone and structure  
What themes and styles do these two poems suggest about the rest of the poems which will follow?
- ❖ **Recreative task:** In small groups, create a collage entitled 'Innocence and Experience', by cutting out pictures and headlines from a range of magazines and newspapers
  - What do you notice about this 21st century view?  
(  Synopses and commentary > Textual history)  
(  The context of *Songs of Innocence and Experience*)
- ❖ **Critical task:** Having studied the two poems entitled *Introduction*, what do you think that Blake means by the terms 'innocence' and 'experience'?  
(  Themes and significant ideas > What did Blake mean by 'Innocence' and 'Experience'?)
- ❖ **Extension task:** Find and read other examples of pastoral poetry  
(  Aspects of literature > Recognising poetic form > Pastoral poetry in brief)
  - How far do the two *Introduction* poems fit into this genre?