

CONTENTS

What to expect from this guide.....	3
About the author	3
What are Assessment objectives, and how do you meet them?	5
List of Selected poems for study.....	6
Birthday	7
Echo	10
From The Antique.....	13
Goblin Market	17
Good Friday	22
In the Round Tower at Jhansi.....	25
Maude Clare.....	29
No, Thank You, John	35
Remember	39
Shut Out	43
Soeur Louise de la Misericorde.....	48
Song: When I am Dead	53
Twice	56
Uphill.....	61
Winter: My Secret.....	64
How to form Practice questions at AS Level.....	70
How to form Practice questions at A Level, and how to choose in the exam	71
How to address the assessment objectives in an essay	73
What is context	74
Context for A-Level.....	74
Family History	74
Marriage and Relationships.....	76
Beliefs about women’s role in society including work with fallen women	76
Politics	78
Religion.....	78
Rossetti’s writing and literary influences	78
Publication history.....	79
Critical viewpoints.....	79

Exam preparation summaries	81
AS-Level:	81
A Level	81
Tips for writing a comparative essay	82
Glossary of literary terms.....	83
Form and metre.....	83
Structure.....	84
Language.....	84
Goblin Market – full text	86
AS-Level Practice exam Questions	100
A Level Practice Exam Questions.....	106

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THIS GUIDE

For each poem you'll find:

- The poem itself
- Context to help explore the poem
- Stanza by stanza annotation of thematic interpretation and language analysis
- Additional analysis of structure and form
- Key connections (theme and motif) with the rest of the collection

The analysis of poems is useful for either A or A-Level – they are standalone, but I make reference to the contexts and critical interpretations that are essential for A Level comparative questions.

You won't find a single, straight-forward interpretation – I don't believe that Rossetti's writing lends itself to such! Instead, I think Rossetti is often writing consciously, and there are several obvious themes. I also think there's some themes where we have to question how consciously Rossetti herself is exploring ideas – but that doesn't mean that they aren't present. Rossetti's poetry, for me, is full of doubt and religious conviction, complex considerations of women's rights and independent thinking, and a difficult relationship with sexuality. How much of that was in Rossetti's mind, I have no way of knowing – but as an A-Level student, one of the best things you can do is search for the complexity of meaning and acknowledge that literature speaks to different people of different things – even the writers themselves.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

I've been teaching English Literature and English Language for more than seven years in my job as Curriculum Leader at one of the top performing state schools in the North of England. We've been doing the new OCR spec, and I love the Rossetti collection they've included! She's a fantastic poet, with an incredible depth which you don't always see at first glance – she's famous for a handful of poems popular at weddings and funerals, and the carol *It Came Upon A Midnight Clear*. But once you look into it there's just so much to explore, and my hope for this guide is that it gives you the confidence to understand the poems, and to form your own opinions and judgments as well.