

14 POETRY IN ENGLISH

2. Why has the speaker stopped by the woods?
3. What is the horse's reaction to the pause in their journey?
4. What is the significance of the word **darkest** in line 8?
5. What does the speaker mean when he says that he has **promises to keep**?
6. What associations and feelings are stirred up by the word **sleep**?
7. Did you like or dislike the poem? Why?
8. The poem can be interpreted on many levels, share your interpretation of the poem with your classmates.



Up-Hill

Christina Rossetti

Does the road wind up-hill all the way?
Yes, to the very end.
Will the day's journey take the whole long day?
From morn to night, my friend.

5 But is there for the night a resting-place?
A roof for when slow dark hours begin.
May not the darkness hide it from my face?
You cannot miss that inn.

10 Shall I meet other wayfarers at night?
Those who have gone before.
Then must I knock, or call when just in sight
They will not keep you standing at that door.

15 Shall I find comfort, travel - sore and weak?
Of labour you shall find the sum.
Will there be beds for me and all who seek?
Yea, beds for all who come.

Questions

1. What evidence is there that this journey is not just an ordinary trip?
2. Show how the lines of the poem are divided between the speakers.
3. Who do you think these speakers are?
4. If you were the questioner in this poem, how would you respond to the answers you received? Explain.
5. What might the up-hill winding represent?

6. Who are "Those who have gone before"?
7. Why is a journey along a road a good "symbol" for life?
8. Explain what the "roof" and "slow dark hours" could symbolize.



The Lamb

William Blake

Little Lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?

Gave thee life, and bid thee feed,
By the stream and o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing woolly, bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the vales rejoice!

10 Little Lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?

Little Lamb, I'll tell thee,
Little Lamb, I'll tell thee!

He is called by thy name,
For he calls Himself a Lamb:

15 He is meek, and he is mild;
He became a little child:
I a child, and thou a lamb,
We are called by his name.

20 Little Lamb, God bless thee!
Little Lamb, God bless thee!

Questions

1. What questions does the speaker ask in the first stanza? Point out words in this stanza which convey the impression of innocence.
2. How does the language of the speaker support his innocence?
3. What answers does he give in the second stanza?
4. How does the speaker identify himself in the second stanza?
5. In what way does stanza two develop a relationship between the speaker, the lamb, and the Maker?