# The Problem with Meaning in Literature

# O Rose thou art sick.The invisible worm,That flies in the nightIn the howling storm:Has found out thy bedOf crimson joy:And his dark secret loveDoes thy life destroy.

What strategies could you use in order to construct meaning from this poem?

What title would you give it in order to reflect this meaning?

**How might understanding of the points below assist in the construction of meaning?**

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| historical period | poet’s name | understanding of imagery | structure, length and rhyme scheme |
| meaning of vocabulary | the emotional impact on the reader | details of poet’s life | interpretation of tone, mood and atmosphere |
| understanding of symbolism | poets values, attitudes and beliefs | understanding of allusions | school of poetry |

What other knowledge could you draw on? Categorise these strategies.