

LI: To understand the content, context and devices used in *London* by William Blake.

- 1. Read the poem through once on page 10 in the booklet and pay attention to the annotations next to it as you read.** What are your first impressions of the poem? What mood is set? What do you think the poem might be about?
- 2. Read over the information on page 11 on context, themes and structure.** Now, create a mind- map or bullet-point list reducing this information into key points.
- 3. Next, read the poem through again.** Highlight/ underline any language devices you see being used in one colour. Next to these highlighted points, annotate the effect of these techniques. Refer to terminology in the glossary.
- 4. Now, read the poem again.** Using a different colour highlighter/ pen, identify any structural devices used and, just like with language, annotate the effect of the structure. Refer to terminology in the glossary.
- 5. What links to context can be seen within the poem?** Highlight and annotate.
- 6. What links to themes can be seen within the poem?** Highlight and annotate.
- 7. Now, listen to the GCSEPods on London-** there are several short pods so make sure you listen to them all. As you listen, add key information to your annotations or create a mind-map/ bullet- point list of key information as you listen.

8. Finally, answer all of the following questions based on the poem:

London

1. What tense is this poem in and why might it be important?
2. Who is the speaker of the poem?
3. What is Blake's message to the reader through this poem?
4. How is anaphora used in the second stanza?
5. What type of language technique is "mind-forged manacles" and what does it suggest?
6. Does Blake like the monarchy or disapprove of it? How can you tell?
7. What does "black'ning church" suggest?
8. How is contrast used in the last stanza?
9. What's a quotation with "woe" in it and what does it mean?
10. What's an oxymoron in the poem and what's the effect?
11. What type of word is "blasts"?
12. What type of word is "hapless"?

Challenge tasks:

1. How has Blake presented the theme of Power in *London*? Use WETTER plus links to context to form your response.
2. How has Blake presented the theme of Conflict in *London*? Use WETTER plus links to context to form your response.
3. Which other poems that you have seen so far could you link *London* to and why? Compare writers' intentions in both poems.