

The way a poet **organises the layout and structure** of a poem can help him or her develop a **theme**.

Getting you thinking

Read this poem by Christina Rossetti about lost love. It is a **sonnet**, a 14-line poem with set rhythm and rhyme that often deals with 'deep' subjects such as love and death.

REMEMBER me when I am gone away,
Gone far away into the silent land;
When you can no more hold me by the hand,
Nor I half turn to go, yet turning stay.
Remember me when no more day by day
You tell me of our future that you plann'd:
Only remember me; you understand
It will be late to counsel then or pray.
Yet if you should forget me for a while
And afterwards remember, do not grieve:
For if the darkness and corruption leave
A vestige of the thoughts that once I had,
Better by far you should forget and smile
Than that you should remember and be sad.

In pairs, can you find examples of where the poet uses any of the techniques below?

- **rhyme:** the echoing of a sound, usually at the end of a line of poetry
- **rhyme scheme:** the pattern of rhyme in a poem
- **enjambment:** where the end of a line of poetry is not 'stopped' by punctuation – the sentence runs over into the next line
- **end-stopped line:** lines of poetry that are 'stopped' by punctuation
- **alliteration:** repetition of same or similar consonant (any letter that is not a vowel) sounds at the beginning of words
- **assonance:** repetition of vowel sounds
- **repetition:** repeating words, phrases, lines, often in a pattern (as in a chorus)

What do they add to the meaning and feeling of the poem?