

# GOBLIN MARKET (1862)

## Text Two

This poem was published for the first time in 1862 in the collection *Goblin Market and other Poems*.

### SUMMARY

*Goblin Market is a fairy tale in verse and tells the story of two sisters, Lizzie and Laura, who are tempted by the goblins to buy forbidden fruit. Laura yields to the temptation, but instead of gaining satisfaction she is left craving for more and falls sick. Lizzie saves her sister from death, by resisting the temptation to eat the forbidden fruit.*

The extract below is about Laura's meeting with the goblins, when they persuade her to buy their fruit.

**1** Read the text and note down:

- 1 why Laura refuses the goblins' offer at first
- 2 what they suggest
- 3 whether Laura agrees to their suggestion
- 4 what she does and feels after that
- 5 what she is left with at the end.

(...)

But sweet-tooth<sup>1</sup> Laura spoke in haste:

"*Good Folk*, I have no coin;

To take were to purloin<sup>2</sup>:

I have no copper in my purse,

5 I have no silver either,

And all my gold is on the furze<sup>3</sup>

That shakes in windy weather

Above the rusty<sup>4</sup> heather<sup>5</sup>."

"You have much gold upon your head,"

10 They answered all together:

"Buy from us with a golden curl."

*She* clipped<sup>6</sup> a precious golden lock,

She dropped a tear more rare than pearl,

Then sucked their fruit globes fair or red:

15 Sweeter than honey from the rock,

Stronger than man-rejoicing wine,

Clearer than water flowed that juice;

**Good Folk** refers to...

**She** refers to...

1. *sweet-tooth*, greedy (golosa).

2. *to purloin*, to steal (rubare).

3. *furze*, yellow-flowered shrub (ginestrone).

4. *rusty*, the colour of rust (color ruggine).

5. *heather*, kind of plant (erica).

6. *clipped*, cut (taglio).