

foregrounded by the use of trochees, which stress the intensity of her urge to celebrate her joy. *A Birthday* reveals the more joyous side of Christina Rossetti's personality, her Pre-Raphaelite taste for beautiful imagery matched with sincerity of feelings.

### Goblin Market

The extract from *Goblin Market* is a good example both of the fairy-tale quality of the poem and of its sensual quality and symbolism. Laura yields to temptation, buys the forbidden fruit and gives up part of herself. But the experience does not give her a sense of fulfilment. At the end she is left alone with empty rinds and a kernel stone in her hand, which may be considered as the symbol of her sin.



■ F. Stone, *The Sisters*, c. 1850.

## REVISION

1. What kind of family did Christina Rossetti belong to?
2. Describe the two contrasting sides of her personality.
3. What are the main themes of her poetry?
4. How are these themes reflected in the poems you have read?

Which poem do the following quotations belong to? Tick as appropriate. Do not look at the texts.

	A BIRTHDAY	GOBLIN MARKET
1 "like a singing bird"	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 "a golden curl"	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 "more rare than pearl"	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 "And peacocks with a hundred eyes"	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 "Sweeter than honey from the rock"	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 "Work it in gold and silver grapes"	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 "Then flung the emptied rinds away"	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 "My love is come to me"	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>