3.5.6 Synthesising activity (Advanced)

How do interactive texts and literature compare?

Look at the series of statements made about the nature of reading with hypertext and consider how these may apply to reading a work of literature.

Hypertext	Literature
Hypertext imitates the way we think through making associations.	
Hypertext blurs the role of the reader with that of the author.	
The hypertext reader does not simply follow a text but makes deliberate choices about the directions a text takes.	
The text a hypertext reader reads is not necessarily the text the author has planned.	
The reader of a hypertext is not the author of the text read but an agent in its meaning.	
Because it is not linear, hypertext results in disoriented readers.	
The mechanism of hypertext determines reading rather than the content.	

Read the following poem, and as you do, be alert to the associations you are making with your own life experience and jot them down next to the poem.

A Poison Tree
by William Blake

I was angry with my friend:

I told my wrath, my wrath did end.

I was angry with my foe:

I told it not, my wrath did grow.

And I watered it in fears,

Night & morning with my tears;

And I sunned it with smiles,

And with soft deceitful wiles.

And it grew both day and night,

Till it bore an apple bright ;

And my foe beheld it shine,

And he knew that it was mine,

And into my garden stole

When the night had veil'd the pole:

In the morning glad I see

My foe outstretched beneath the tree.

Write a reflection on the extent to which you are the writer of the poem in your own mind, a poem that is different from what you believe Blake might have intended.

End your reflection with a statement on the ways a response to a literary text may become a personal composition and consider how response and composition can be seen as reciprocal activities.