### 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.

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