

# *The Nightingale and the Rose* – Questions

## **Pre-reading questions**

1. What are nightingales usually associated with?
2. What do red roses usually symbolise?

## **Study questions**

1. In all the Student's garden there is no red rose. What do you think is the symbolic meaning of this?
2. The Student says all the secrets of philosophy are his but his life is made wretched "for want of a red rose". What contrast is suggested here?
3. What in the Student's appearance makes the Nightingale consider him a true lover?
4. "Love is a wonderful thing". How does the Nightingale suggest the wonder of love?
5. What is ironic about the descriptions of the Student when he listens to the Nightingale's thoughts on Love?
6. The Oak-tree understands the Nightingale's song but the student doesn't. What are the Student's reflections on the Nightingale's song?
7. On seeing the red rose, the Student says: "It is so beautiful that I am sure it has a long Latin name". What is revealed about the Student here?
8. Comment on the Professor's daughter rejection of the Student. How does she show her snobbery and her superficiality?
8. When the Student rejects Love and turns to philosophy and metaphysics, he returns to his room and pulls out "a great dusty book". What is the symbolic significance of "dusty" here?