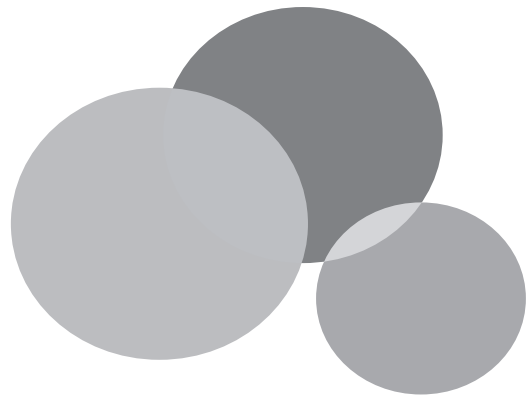


# TWENTY



## Possible answer

### Reading in genre

This is a nursery rhyme conforming to the genre of non – rhyming nursery narratives with a story which has action and conclusion of that action

### Strategies of placement, absences and voices

The key words follow the rhythm of the stanzas and focus on the beginnings and endings of the lines. Thus 'Jack' and 'Jill' 'hill' 'water' 'crown' 'trot' 'caper' 'head' and 'paper' dominate and these are the key words of the storyline. Absences lie in any detail of who these people are and their voices are also not heard in their own right.

### Interpretation

Jill's story is truncated and incomplete and she appears as an accompanying and fairly inactive female. The storyteller is powerful – only his/her voice is heard and the tense is past tense. No interpretations are evident but metaphors such as 'crown' for head, 'water' for life, 'Jack' and 'Jill' for currency and measurements, male and female, King and Queen, 'tumbling' for sexual play, 'caper' for success and capering and 'brown paper' promise joyful change for the better. These allusions point to the possibility of many interpretations. The general tone is optimistic with 3rd person comment only. Depending on the interpretation imposed, some denigration of role could be assumed if Jack and Jill were royal and exposure of the countries economic situation if they represent currency. Considerable activity can be experienced (up, down, tumbling, trot, caper) all of which reinforce a sexual interpretation with complications – particularly as another version of the second verse has Jack mending his 'nob' which could suggest some sexually transmitted disease.