

Gender/Queer Studies  
Goblin Market

There are many assumptions that can be made about the characters sexual identity and gender binary within "Goblin Market. Written in 1862, this narrative poem presented constructs of new themes for the Victorian era and then arose the period of the "New Woman." With this feminism became a focus and people were starting to be introduced to a new socially excepted sexual identity. This poem focuses on morality, sexual mores, temptation, and alludes to Adam and Eve, with the symbolism of the fruit.

One could ask the question, what theme was more persistent throughout the poem, sexuality or spirituality? The sexual tones and images were imminent and one could say that the eating of the forbidden fruit was a sexual uprising or awakening but it also portrays a Christian theme that adds something to the text. Rossetti writes, "She sucked and sucked and sucked some more, Fruits which that unknown orchard bore, she sucked until her lips were sore." Throughout the journey the sisters were tempted to give up their innocence and to no longer be sexually pure. I believe that their stances on sexuality and what happens in to her sisters makes both of them even stronger. Lizzie doesn't eat the fruit so that means she is still innocent and her purity is what actually heals heer sister. To em the goblins represent the serpent. Another Christian element is that the fruit symbolizes the sin of man itself. I feel like all of these stances, ideologies, and sexual undertones are marked and it very effective in the poem. This romantic tragedy, compares the sexuality of the girls to the fruit itself. Laura is symbolized by her lack of containment from eating the fruit and her sexual arousal ultimately led the sin that has transpired.

This poem is filled with magical realism. It also challenges patriarchal norms creates assumptions about the author, community, and perception. The hair, fruit, women, goblins, setting, and era all play specific part in the meaning of this poem.

This poem was all over the place for me, but this theory brought out its true essence and beauty, The assumptions are indicated by the setting and time of the story but the way it ended made it more progressive and ahead of its time.