The earth was green, the sky was blue:

I saw and heard one sunny morn
A skylark hang between the two,
A singing speck above the corn;
A stage below, in gay accord,
White butterflies danced on the wing,
And still the singing skylark soared,
And silent sang and soared to sing.

The cornfield stretched a tender green
To right and left beside my walks;
I knew he had a nest unseen
Somewhere among the million stalks.
And as I paused to hear his song
While swift the sunny moments sild,
Perhaps his mate sat listening long,
And listened longer than I did.
Vocabulary
1- A speck is something small.
2- If something is in accord, it is in agreement.
3- The word 'tender' suggests something fresh and young.
4- A bird lays eggs in a nest and when they hatch, it looks after the young and feeds them.
5- The stem.
6- Swift means fast.

Comprehension
The poet describes how content she feels as she walks through a corn field. As she walks along, she sees a skylark flying in the sky. It doesn't sing as it flies quickly in the cornfield. The poet knows that the skylark's nest is hidden in the cornfield. She imagines that its companion is also listening somewhere in the cornfield.

Analysis
1- Examples of alliteration
- singing speck
- still singing skylark soared
- silent sang soared sing
Swift sunny slid
Listening long
Listened longer
Using alliteration creates music in the poem.
2- The listener is the skylark's mate.
The references to another listener are:-
   I knew he had a nest unseen.
   Perhaps his mate sat listening long
   And listened longer than I did.
3- We know that the poet leaves the cornfield before the skylark has stopped singing from the last line in the poem 'And listened longer that I did.'
A Green Cornfield
Christina Rossetti

The meaning of the poem:-
The poem is a celebration of life, nature and love.

It focuses on a simple detail of a skylark singing.

This bird is traditionally associated with joy and connects this with the idea of continuity of life.

The skylark has a nest and a mate, the song is just one sign that life goes on.

There is an implicit contrast between the poet’s solitary state and the pairing of the birds.

But the mood of the poem is joyous and life affirming.

The narrator is reliving a special afternoon she once spent in a corn field.

For the first time she acknowledged the million stalks.

And realizes how much humans should appreciate the rich, fertile soil of the earth ….

She finds solace in watching the butterflies and pauses to listen to the skylarks serenading one another.

Rossetti takes a walk in the spring and finds a bird singing and soaring with life giving energy.

The mood is quite joyous, and the playful freedom of the lark who dips and soars……

The poet is led to hypothesize the presence of an unseen love nesting below ……..
The time has grown late, the sun is sinking, and the poet must get home for dinner.

Is that why she cannot stay to listen as the lark's mate listens?

Or is that she is suddenly overwhelmed by loneliness, by the absence of love in her own life.

By her jealousy and rage at an unseen bird who joys in the songs and dances her husband makes for her?

For you see, the poet has no husband to love.

But the poet does not complain, literally, she is looking for sympathy, she wants to communicate a concept.

It is possible to understand love, real love, as taking joy in other's accomplishments and still to live without it.

That is the metaphor generated by the ironic ending to this poem.

Christina Rossetti:

She was an English poet who wrote a variety of romantic, devotional, and children poems. She wrote the poems 'Goblin Market' and 'Remember', and the words of the 'Christmas Carol' 'In the Bleak Midwinter'.

ولدت في عام 1830 وتوفيت عام 1894، كانت شاعرة انجلزية كتبت مجموعة من القصائد العاطفية والقصائد الدينية وقصائد الأطفال.

كتبت قصائد "عفرت السوق" و"تذكر" وكلمات "أغنية عبد الميلاد" و"منتصف الشتاء الكبب".