

# CHRISTABEL

-S.T. COLERIDGE

## \*CHARACTER ANALYSIS OF CHRISTABEL

Christabel is the main character of the poem "Christabel". Throughout the poem Christabel is constantly referred as an innocent, pure young woman who rescues Geraldine who is just opposite of Christabel. She is praised by other characters for innocence. There are many instances where Christabel is described as an innocent soul. Christabel is adored and loved by her father so much. The narrator of the poem calls Christabel as her father's joy, pride, "so fair, so innocent, so mild". Christabel is devout Christian. She is described as a "youthful hermitess.. who, praying always, prays in sleep". But at the same time we can see some strangeness in her behavior in the poem. Such as she goes to pray in the forest at midnight even when they have a church in their castle. But according to the narrator she dreamt a bad dream yesterday night so she goes to make her gentle vows at night in the forest. When Christabel discovers Geraldine in the woods, both were unknown to each other but Christabel offers her helping hand to Geraldine as she can't see her sufferings. Christabel rescues Geraldine and takes to their castle to give shelter for the night. When Geraldine enters in the castle so many strange things happens but Christabel does not mind about them. Christabel does every possible thing for her guest to make comfortable. But as we can see that Geraldine is not like a normal woman, she takes Christabel in her control by bestowing some magic spell. It is not clearly mentioned in the poem that what happened between them at night. Next morning when we see that Christabel can't say anything, she does only a "hissing sound", we can assume that probably Geraldine did something bad to Christabel. In the poem, the protagonist character Christabel is portrayed as a typical woman. She obeys the rules, she is quiet and passive, she is lovely and gentle.