

Monday 4th January 2021

LO: To read the first part of The Highwayman and explore challenging vocabulary.

For the next three weeks, we are going to be focusing on a fantastic poem written by a poet called Alfred Noyes. This poem was first published in 1906 therefore is 115 years old! Keep the age of the poem in mind when thinking about it's meaning.

Dec 30-11:47

Dec 30-11:56

### Prediction Clues

Take a look at the images below (they are clues about what happens in the poem.) Use these clues to think of a short prediction about what you think is going to happen in the poem.



Stick the first half of the poem into your books and let's read it together!

#### The Highwayman by Alfred Noyes - PART ONE

The wind was a torrent of darkness among the gusty trees.  
The moon was a ghostly galleon tossed upon cloudy seas.  
The road was a ribbon of moonlight over the purple moor,  
And the highwayman came riding—  
Riding—riding—  
The highwayman came riding, up to the old inn-door.

He'd a French cocked-hat on his forehead, a bunch of lace at his chin,  
A coat of the claret velvet, and breeches of brown doe-skin.  
They fitted with never a wrinkle. His boots were up to the thigh.  
And he rode with a jewelled twinkle,  
His pistol butts a-twinkle,  
His rapier hilt a-twinkle, under the jewelled sky.

Over the cobbles he clattered and clashed in the dark inn-yard.  
He tapped with his whip on the shutters, but all was locked and barred.  
He whistled a tune to the window, and who should be waiting there  
But the landlord's black-eyed daughter,  
Bess, the landlord's daughter,  
Plaiting a dark red love-knot into her long black hair.

And dark in the dark old inn-yard a stable-wicket creaked  
Where Tim the ostler listened. His face was white and peaked.  
His eyes were hollows of madness, his hair like mouldy hay,  
But he loved the landlord's daughter,  
The landlord's red-lipped daughter.  
Dumb as a dog he listened, and he heard the robber say—

"One kiss, my bonny sweetheart, I'm after a prize to-night,  
But I shall be back with the yellow gold before the morning light;  
Yet, if they press me sharply, and harry me through the day,  
Then look for me by moonlight,  
Watch for me by moonlight,  
I'll come to thee by moonlight, though hell should bar the way."

He rose upright in the stirrups. He scarce could reach her hand,  
But she loosened her hair in the casement. His face burnt like a brand  
As the black cascade of perfume came tumbling over his breast;  
And he kissed its waves in the moonlight,  
(O, sweet black waves in the moonlight!)  
Then he tugged at his rein in the moonlight, and galloped away to the west.

Dec 30-11:49

Dec 30-11:58

Now watch the first half of the poem being performed (read with intonation and expression) and the accompanying images - this will help your comprehension of the plot!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bEEHihQ3CPk>

\*Watch until 3:35

Now that you've got a general understanding of the plot of the poem, let's delve deeper into investigating the vocabulary. Remember, this poem is 115 years old so there will be words that you're unsure of the meaning of.

Task - with your pencil, circle any words that you aren't sure of the meaning of.

Dec 30-12:23

Dec 30-12:25

Let's highlight the words which you aren't sure of the meaning of!

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We are going to create our own glossary in which we define the meaning of words that we aren't sure about.

Glossary

torrent -

galleon -

moor -

highwayman -

claret -

breeches -

rapier -

stable-wicket

ostler -

bonny -

harry -

stirrups -

\*Definitions of words are on the next page.

Dec 30-11:58

Dec 30-12:27

Glossary

*torrent - a strong stream of water.*

*galleon - an old sailing ship.*

*moor - land covered in a purple plant called heather.*

*highwayman - a man who rides a horse and robs travellers at gunpoint.*

*claret - red.*

*breeches - short trousers.*

*rapier - a thin sword.*

*stable-wicket - a gate in a stable.*

*ostler - a man who looks after horses.*

*bonny - beautiful.*

*harry - harass.*

*stirrups - metal loops where horse riders put their feet.*

Dec 30-12:30

Now that you understand the plot and vocabulary in the poem, I want you to write a short summary about what happens in part one of the poem.

Dec 30-12:36

Tuesday 5th January 2021

LO: To read the second part of The Highwayman and explore challenging vocabulary.

Dec 30-11:47

Starter

Using the glossary that you created yesterday, label the following images:



Dec 30-12:37

Today we are going to read the remainder of *The Highwayman*, this is known as Part Two!

Beware, you will be shocked at what is about to happen!



Dec 30-12:51

*The Highwayman* by Alfred Noyes - PART TWO

He did not come in the dawning. He did not come at noon;  
And out of the tawny sunset, before the rise of the moon,  
When the road was a gypsy's ribbon, looping the purple moor,  
A red-coat troop came marching—  
Marching—marching—  
King George's men came marching, up to the old inn-door.

They said no word to the landlord. They drank his ale instead.  
But they gagged his daughter, and bound her, to the foot of her narrow bed.  
Two of them knelt at her casement, with muskets at their side!  
There was death at every window;  
And hell at one dark window;  
For Bess could see, through her casement, the road that he would ride.

They had tied her up to attention, with many a sniggering jest.  
They had bound a musket beside her, with the muzzle beneath her breast!  
"Now, keep good watch!" and they kissed her. She heard the doomed man say—  
Look for me by moonlight;  
Watch for me by moonlight;  
I'll come to thee by moonlight, though hell should bar the way!

She twisted her hands behind her; but all the knots held good!  
She writhed her hands till her fingers were wet with sweat or blood!  
They stretched and strained in the darkness, and the hours crawled by like years  
Till, now, on the stroke of midnight,  
Cold, on the stroke of midnight,  
The tip of one finger touched it! The trigger at least was hers!

The tip of one finger touched it. She strove no more for the rest.  
Up, she stood up to attention, with the muzzle beneath her breast.  
She would not risk their hearing; she would not strive again;  
For the road lay bare in the moonlight;  
Blank and bare in the moonlight;  
And the blood of her veins, in the moonlight, throbbled to her love's refrain.

Tlot-tlot, tlot-tlot! Had they heard it? The horsehoofs ringing clear,  
Tlot-tlot, tlot-tlot, in the distance? Were they deaf that they did not hear?  
Down the ribbon of moonlight, over the brow of the hill,  
The highwayman came riding—  
Riding—riding—  
The red coats looked to their priming! She stood up, straight and still.

Tlot-tlot, in the frosty silence! Tlot-tlot, in the echoing night!  
Nearer he came and nearer. Her face was like a light.  
Her eyes grew wide for a moment; she drew one last deep breath,  
Then her finger moved in the moonlight,  
Her musket shattered the moonlight,  
Shattered her breast in the moonlight and warned him—with her death.

He turned. He spurred to the west; he did not know who stood  
Bowed, with her head o'er the musket, drenched with her own blood!  
Not till the dawn he heard it, and his face grew grey to hear  
How Bess, the landlord's daughter,  
The landlord's black-eyed daughter,  
Had watched for her love in the moonlight, and died in the darkness there.

Back, he spurred like a madman, shrieking a curse to the sky,  
With the white road smoking behind him and his rapier brandished high.  
Stood red were his spurs in the golden noon; wine-red was his velvet coat;  
When they shot him down on the highway,  
Down like a dog on the highway,  
And he lay in his blood on the highway, with a bunch of lace at his throat.

And still of a winter's night, they say, when the wind is in the trees,  
When the moon is a ghostly galleon tossed upon cloudy seas,  
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Riding—riding—  
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He whistles a tune to the window, and who should be waiting there  
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Bess, the landlord's daughter,  
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What happened?

Dec 30-12:52

Now watch the second half of the poem being performed (read with intonation and expression) and the accompanying images - this will help your comprehension of the plot!

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\*Watch from 3:35 until the end

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Dec 30-12:25

*Let's highlight any words that you aren't sure of the meaning of.*

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Dec 30-12:52

*Like yestersay, we are going to create our own glossary in which we define the meaning of words that we aren't sure about.*

## Glossary

tawny -

troop -

casement -

muskets -

muzzle -

writhed -

spurred -

spurs -

*\*Definitions of words are on the next page.*

Dec 30-12:27

## Glossary

tawny - an orange/yellow/brown colour.

troop - a group of soldiers.

casement - a window.

musket - gun.

muzzle - the end of the barrel of a gun.

writhed - twisted and squirmed.

spurred - made a horse run faster.

spurs - small spiked wheels on a rider's boots.



spurs

Dec 30-12:27

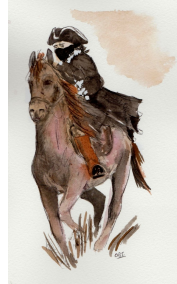
Now that you understand the plot and vocabulary in the poem, I want you to write a short summary about the shocking events which take place in part two of the poem.

Dec 30-12:36

Wednesday 6th January 2021

LO: To plot the main events which occur in the poem The Highwayman.

Today we are going to spend some time ensuring that we really understand The Highwayman.



Let's see what we can remember about the poem ...

NO SHOUTING OUT

Dec 30-11:47

Dec 30-13:07

What is the name of the landlord's daughter?

What does the landlord's daughter wear in her hair?

What is the relationship between the Highwayman and Bess?

What is an ostler?

What is the ostler's name in the poem?

What is the relationship between Tim and Bess?

How do you think that Tim feels towards the Highwayman?

Dec 30-14:10

Dec 30-14:12

Where does the Highwayman go when he leaves Bess at the beginning of the poem? What is his 'job'?

Who arrived wearing red coats? Why do you think they came to the town?

Who do you think called King George's men? Why?

Why do you think that King George's men tied Bess up?

Why did Bess shoot herself? What do you think about this?

Why did the Highwayman try to return to the town at the end of the poem?

Was Bess' decision to shoot herself to save the Highwayman a waste? Why?

Dec 30-14:13

Dec 30-14:15

Today you are going to create a story board in which you plot the six main events which occur in the poem.


Let's think about the poem in a chronological manner to plot the main events.

- 1) Who does the Highwayman visit?
- 2) Where does the Highwayman go? Why?
- 3) Who informs King George /that the Highwayman is planning to return to town? Who then arrives at the town?
- 4) What do King George's men do to Bess?
- 5) What does Bess do as a warning to the Highwayman?
- 6) What does the Highwayman do upon hearing the news about Bess' death? What happens to him?

Dec 30-14:18

Dec 30-14:25

Task

Write down the 6 main events on the lines provided. Draw a picture to accompany the event.


Dec 30-14:28

Thursday 7th January 2021

LO: To use drama to reenact The Highwayman.

\*Out of books session

Dec 30-11:47

Starter

Below are the 4 main characters in the poem. Order them from 1-4 in order of importance (1 is most important, 4 is least important). Be ready to explain your choices.

Tim



Kingsmen



Bess



Highwayman



Dec 30-14:41

Yesterday, you successfully plotted the six main events of the poem.

However, what happens at the very end of the poem? The Highwayman and Bess return, but as what?

Now that we know the poem inside out, we are going to work in groups of 5 to act out the poem!

Dec 30-14:48

Before you do this in your groups, you are going to become directors.

You are going to help me and Mrs Sullivan/Miss Green/Miss Talbot to act out the poem. I will need three more confident volunteers to help.

Let's think, what happens first in the poem? How could we act this out? Which characters do we need on scene? What could the other characters do whilst they stand out of scene? What should each character's facial expression look like?

\*Continue until you've modelled acting out complete poem.

Dec 30-14:50

You have got 15 minutes to practice acting out the poem in your group before you perform it to the rest of the class!

- How would you character move?
- What would their facial expression be like?

\*I could make photo page to stick in books whilst each group performs.



Dec 30-14:53

## Performance Time



Well done! Now, I am going to play the character of Bess as she is tied up, debating what she should do.

You are going to give me some advice.

What should I do?



Should I shoot myself?

Could I escape another way?

Could I use the gun to do something else?

Should I let them capture the Highwayman?

Dec 30-14:55

Dec 30-14:58

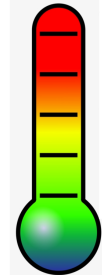
Friday 8th January 2021

*LO: To create character profiles of the Highwayman and Bess.*

Starter

Below is a vocabulary thermometer. The words below describe King George's men. Place the words from 'least effective' (blue) to most effective (red) on the thermometer

bad  
evil  
wicked  
savage  
barbaric  
sadistic  
heartless



Dec 30-11:47

Dec 30-15:00

Today I'd like to focus upon the characters of the Highwayman and Bess.

*Each of these characters could be described as 'complex characters.' Why do you think this is?*

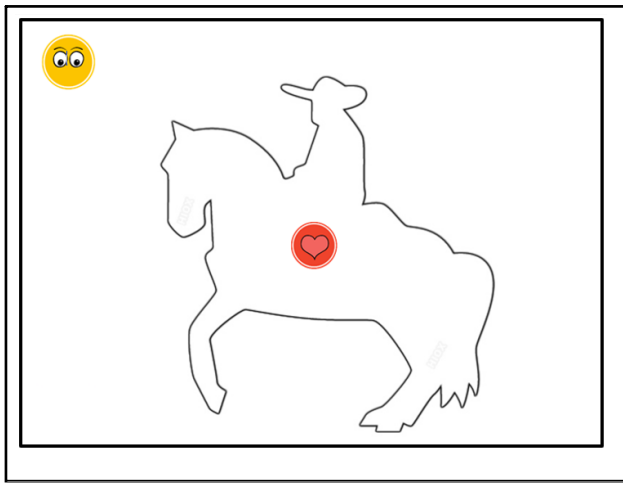


We are going to create character profiles for the Highwayman and Bess. *On the outside of the character's outline, you are going to think of fantastic vocabulary to describe what each character looks like.*

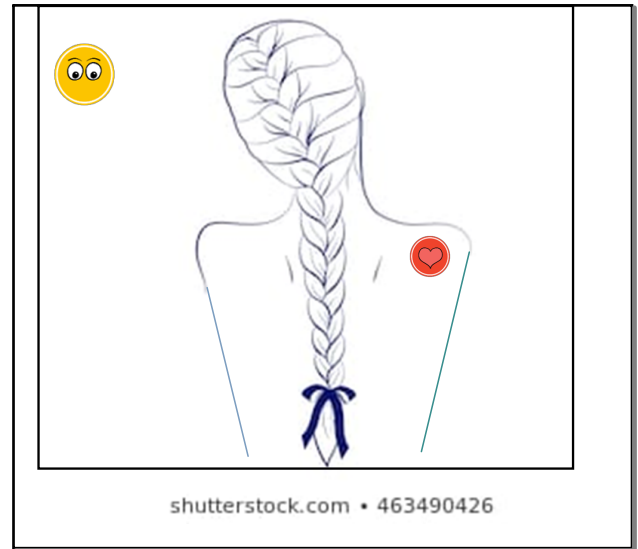
*On the inside of the outline, you are going to think of effective vocabulary to describe the character's personality. Now think carefully about this, is the Highwayman all bad?*

Dec 30-16:11

Dec 30-16:13



Dec 30-16:32

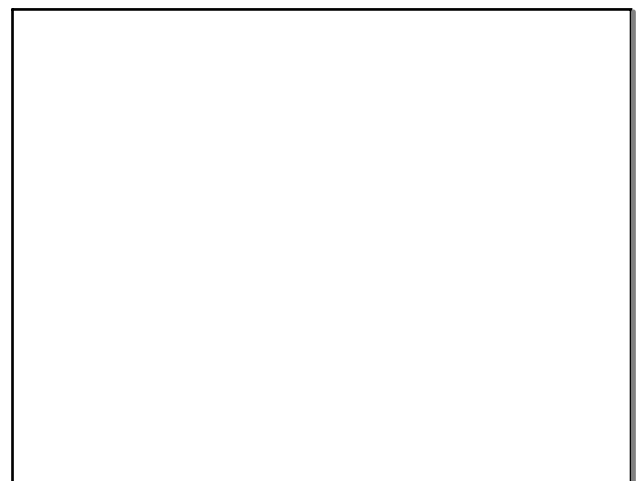


Dec 30-16:39

*In your books, write out the following question and write down your response.*

*How would you describe the Highwayman's personality? Can you give reasons to support your thoughts?*

Dec 30-16:42



Dec 30-16:44