

The Highwayman

Alfred Noyes

Part One

We are going to read part one of the poem only.

Vocabulary Check

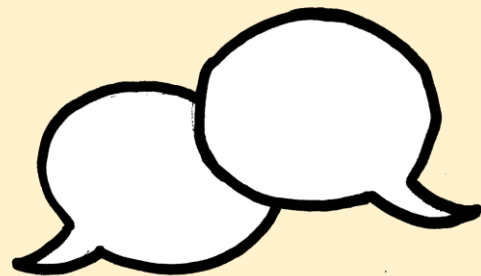
- a torrent of darkness
- the moon was a ghostly galleon
- a coat of the claret velvet
- his rapier hilt a twinkle
- a stable wicket creaked
- Tim the ostler listened
- harry me through the day
- though hell should bar the way
- he scarce could reach her hand

Now let's read part one again

Quick Start

- What time is it (approximately)?
- Who is riding?
- Where does he ride to?
- Who is there waiting for him?
- What does he do at the end of part one?

Partnered Talk



What do you think this poem is about?

Individual Thinking



Look at Stanza One

1. Find and copy two words that show it is night.
2. Find and copy three words that show that the weather is not pleasant.

Individual Thinking

Modernise it



In a 'modernise it' task, you will have to take a stanza of the poem and write what it means in more modern English, in a sentence. Here is my modernisation of stanza one:

It was a dark and windy night and a highwayman rode his horse to an inn in the countryside.

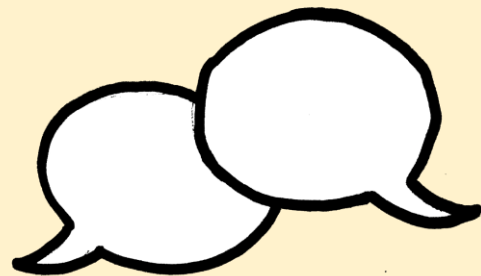
Individual Thinking



Look at Stanza Two

1. What is the highwayman wearing?
2. What weapons does the highwayman have?

Partnered Talk

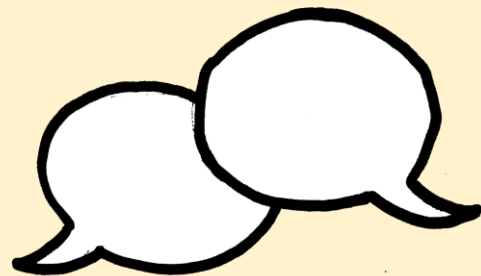


Look at Stanza Two

What do the highwayman's clothes suggest about him?

What do the highwayman's two weapons suggest about him?

Partnered Talk



Modernise it

Together, modernise stanza two

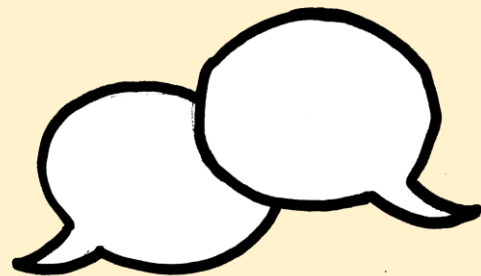
Individual Thinking



Look at stanza three.

1. Why did the highwayman knock on the shutters?
2. Who answered when he whistled?
3. What was she plaiting into her hair?

Partnered Talk

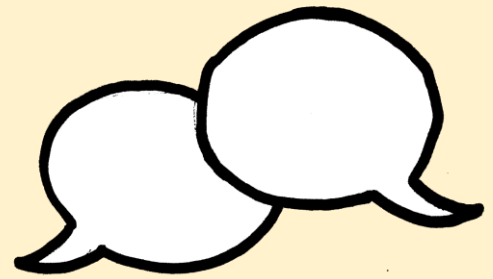


Bess is plaiting a dark-red love knot into her hair.

What might this tell you about Bess and the highwayman?

Jump forward to Stanza Five and see if there's any more evidence that supports your claim.

Partnered Talk



Look at Stanza Four

Who is Tim the ostler? Name two things we learn about Tim.

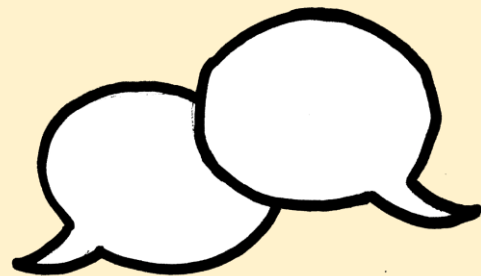
Individual Thinking



Look at Stanza Five

Why isn't the highwayman staying with Bess?

Partnered Talk



*‘Yet if they press me sharply and harry me through the day,
then look for me by moonlight’*

Who might be harrying the highwayman throughout the day?

Why would he then choose to come by moonlight?

Individual Thinking



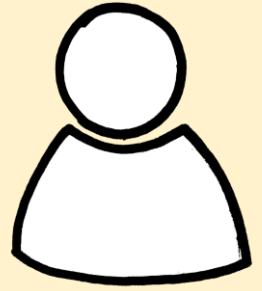
Look at Stanza Six

Why is the highwayman's 'face burnt like a brand'?

Which part of Bess does the highwayman kiss?

Solo Work

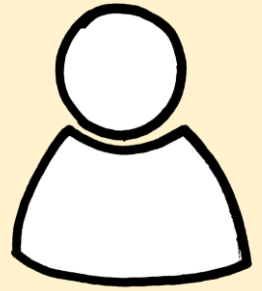
Modernise It



Modernise the whole of part one

Solo Work

Predict It



What might happen in the second part of the poem?
Use what you have discovered in the first part of the
poem to support your prediction.