

The Highwayman: Activity Plan 1

Reading Skill:

2a. Give/explain the meaning of words in context.

I can work out the meaning of unfamiliar words to help me understand the poem.

Vocabulary and Key Phrases:

Stanza, highwayman, galleon, breeches, pistol, rapier, ostler, moor.

Prior Learning: New text.

Reading Task: Read Part 1 (stanzas 1-6) of the poem.

Reading Questions

Which words are unfamiliar? Why? Can you work out what they mean by reading the rest of the stanza?

Stanza 1: Which words and phrases tell us what time of day it is and what the weather is like?

Stanza 2: What is the highwayman wearing? What do his clothes suggest about him? What does 'he rode with a jewelled twinkle' mean?

Stanza 3: Who has the highwayman come to see? What do you think a 'love-knot' is?

Stanza 4: Who is Tim? What is he doing and why? What does the description tell us about him?

Stanza 5: What does the highwayman mean when he says he is 'after a prize to-night'? What does he promise to Bess?

Stanza 6: What do you think 'His face burnt like a brand' means? What are the 'sweet, black waves'?

Deeper Reading:

How and why do you think Tim will be significant in the poem?

Related Activities

Punctuation and Grammar: Children complete the [Hyphens Activity Sheet](#).

Challenge! Children write the hyphenated words from the poem into their own sentences.

Vocabulary: Children create a Highwayman Vocabulary Guide to write definitions of the unfamiliar words in the poem.

Challenge! Children write their own sentences using each of the words.

Comprehension: Children complete the [In Plain English Activity Sheet](#) to explain what is happening in one of the stanzas.

Challenge! Children write an additional stanza describing Tim's reaction/feelings about the events.

Describe: Children complete the [Highwayman Details Activity Sheet](#).

Challenge! Children create a wanted poster for the highwayman.

Act: Children work in a small group to act out the events from part one of the poem.

Challenge! Children imagine they are one of the characters and write a statement about what they were doing on the night in question.

Summarise: Children write a summary about the events of Part 1.

Challenge! Children write a script for a voiceover explaining what has happened in the story so far, as if it were a television programme. e.g. Previously, in 'The Highwayman'...