What If ..?

Part A

Use your imagination to consider how events in the poem might have been different if the following things happened:

1.	What if Tim had never overheard Bess and the highwayman's conversation?
2.	What if Bess had managed to hide from the red-coats?
3.	What if Bess hadn't found the trigger?
4.	What if the red-coats hadn't killed the highwayman?
5.	Ask and answer your own 'What if?' question.



What If ..?

Part B Consider the following: What if Bess couldn't locate the trigger on the musket?
Write the story in prose from this point forwards, describing how you imagine events could have unfolded.
* * Challenge Task
What if Tim wrote a letter to Bess after he had heard her talking to the highwayman? Write Tim's letter to explain his feelings and actions.



What If..? Answers

Part A

Answers given are examples only. Multiple interpretations are applicable. Accept all those which make sense in the context of the poem.

- 1. What if Tim had never overheard the conversation between Bess and the highwayman?
 - · Bess and the highwayman could have continued to meet in secret for many years.
 - · Bess and the highwayman may have eloped and married.
- 2. What if Bess had managed to hide from the red-coats?
 - · Bess may have hidden through the night until the highwayman came and rescued her.
 - The red-coats may have accused Tim of lying about Bess and the highwayman and arrested him.
- 3. What if Bess hadn't found the trigger?
 - The highwayman might have returned to the inn and been shot down in the yard in view of Bess.
 - The highwayman might have seen Bess tied up in the window and retreated to plot a daring rescue for another time.
- 4. What if the red-coats hadn't killed the highwayman?
 - The highwayman might have been visited by Bess's ghost.
 - The highwayman may have been tormented by what happened to Bess and driven to take his own life.

