

Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar with The Highwayman



The Semi-colon



Job Description:

Can be used instead of a connective to join two related ideas:

E.g. and breeches of doe brown skin; they fitted never a wrinkle.

They can also be used to separate items in a list that are longer than one or two words:

E.g. This poem is about the highwayman; Bess, the landlord's daughter; Tim the ostler and King George's men.

Can you put semi-colons back in these phrases from the poem?

Where Tim the ostler listened his face was white and peaked his eyes were hollows of madness, his hair like mouldy hay,

He rose upright in the stirrups he scarce could reach her hand,

Look for me by moonlight watch for me by moonlight I'll come to thee by moonlight,

Blood-red were his spurs in the golden noon wine-red was his velvet coat,

Onomatopoeia



Onomatopoeia is when a word sounds like what it is describing. Like 'buzz' or 'roar'.

Can you find any onomatopoeic words in *The Highwayman*?

Hints:

- A word to describe the wind.
- Something that tapped on the windows.
- The noise of the sable-wicket.
- The sounds of the highwayman's horse.

Can you think of a sentence that uses an onomatopoeic word to describe when the highwayman is shot?

E.g. When they shot him down on the highway; he hit the ground with a **slam**.



Tenses

I visited Bess once; now I'm a ghost, I visit her every day.

The last stanza of The Highwayman moves from past tense to present tense.

What effect does this have on the story?

Can you retell these lines from The Highwayman in the present tense?

The wind was a torrent of darkness among the gusty trees,
The moon was a ghostly galleon tossed upon the 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.

Metaphors and Similes

Metaphors

Describe something by saying that it is something else.

Do not use 'like' or 'as' in your comparison.

E.g. His eyes are green marbles.

Similes

Describe something by saying that it is like or as something else.

Do use 'like' or 'as' in your comparison.

E.g. She swims like a fish.

Read through The Highwayman and write down any metaphors and similes that you find.

Metaphors	Similes

The poem The Highwayman describes the moon as 'a ghostly galleon tossed upon cloudy seas,'.

Can you think of your own metaphor to describe the moon?
