

What If..?

Part A

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

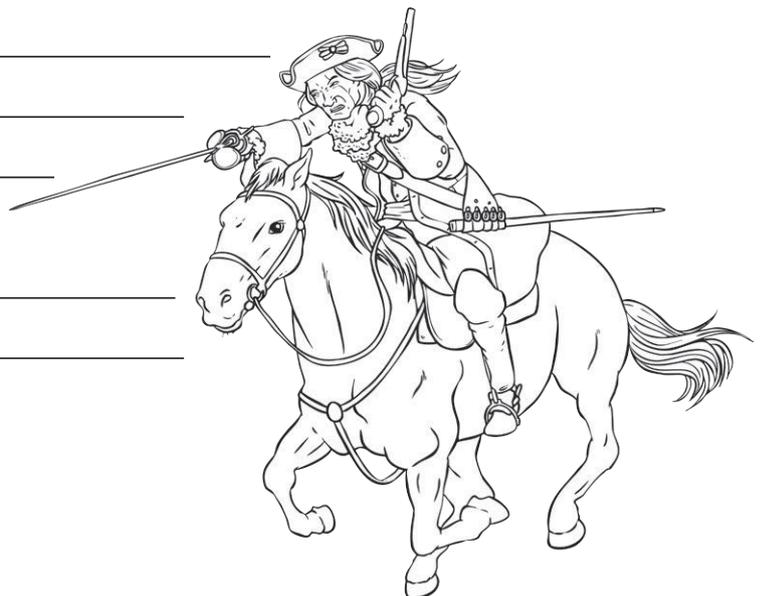
1. What if Tim had never overheard Bess and the highwayman's conversation?

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..? 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.*