

Exploring 'The Highwayman'

What three adjectives would you choose to describe this poem?

How does Alfred Noyes describe the moon?

Why do you think the poem is written in two parts?

How many words can you find that describe the highwayman riding his horse?

What features tell us that this poem is not set in the present day?

What do you notice about the fourth and fifth lines in each stanza?

Which two stanzas of the poem are written in present tense?

Why did Bess kill herself?

The poem describes the road as a 'ribbon of moonlight'. What does this tell us about the road?

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Why do you think King George's men came to the inn?

What do these three phrases have in common?

- 'The road was a ribbon of moonlight'
- 'There was death at every window'
- 'When the moon is a ghostly galleon tossed upon cloudy seas'

What type of figurative language is used in this phrase?

"His hair like mouldy hay"

Can you name any onomatopoeic words in the poem?

Why do you think someone might say this poem has a happy ending?

