

The Highwayman

Important information

Plot

This poem is about a robber who falls in love with a landlords daughter. The highwayman is wanted by the king for his crimes. Tim the ostler gives away the highwayman's whereabouts and the kings men try and find him. They tie Bess up in the hope he will return to her. To warn her love, Bess sacrifices her life. Unfortunately it didn't work as he is killed by the kings men.

Themes

Tragedy, dilemma and romance

Setting

The poem is set in the poem, set in 18th-century rural England. The story occurs around the towns roads and at an inn.

Context

Alfred Noyes is an English poet who was born in 1880. His poetry is typically traditional and romantic in theme. Noyes is also known for writing a trilogy of poems called The Torch-Bearers.

What can this book teach us?

This book can teach us about making the right choices in life and doing the correct thing.

Quotes

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

Writing genres covered

Tragedy and romance

Name of poem:

The highwayman

Date published: 1951

Author: Alfred Noyes

Characters

The highwayman

The main character in this poem is the highwayman. He is a thief that rides from town to town stealing from innocent people. He is madly in love with the landlords daughter. Due to his crimes he is wanted by the Kings men.

Bess

Bess is the landlords daughter and the love interest of the highwayman. She is a beautiful young woman with long, dark hair.

Key word

Definition

Breeches

Short trousers (to the knee) worn by riders.

Ostler

A man that looks after horses.

Casement

A window.

Musket

A long 16th century gun.