1. ***The Highwayman* by Alfred Noyes**
2. **Some old-fashioned words**

The poem *The Highwayman* was written in 1913 and is set a long time before that, so it contains quite a few old-fashioned words.

Find out what the following words mean and write the definitions underneath:

1) galleon - a Spanish ship

2) claret – a deep, rich red color

3) breeches – pants that are gathered at the knee, like traditional baseball pants

4) doe - a female deer

5) rapier – a thin sword with an ornate handle

6) hilt – the handle of a sword or dagger

7) ostler – a stable hand – Tim takes the travelers’ horses and cleans and feeds them

8) casement – a window sash that opens; think shutters

9) tawny – a dull-yellowish brown color

10) torrent - an overwhelming flow,

In the poem the darkness was overwhelming, as dark as dark can be

# *The Highwayman* by Alfred Noyes

### Cloze exercise

**Use these words to complete the story. Use each word only once.**

**Trigger soldiers darkness warn Bess**

**Taps rifle morning bed moor**

**Daughter jealous highwayman ghosts inn**

**The highwayman rides across the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. He arrives at an old \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. It is late at night and the inn is in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**He is in love with the landlord’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . She is called Bess. He \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on her window. She opens the window.**

**Tim is the man who looks after the horses. He is also in love with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. He is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the highwayman. He hears them talking. The highwayman says he will be back before \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Tim tells the soldiers.**

**The\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ arrive. They plan to ambush the highwayman. They tie Bess to the foot of her \_\_\_\_\_\_ so that she can see out of the window. They fasten a \_\_\_\_\_ to her. She is gagged. She cannot \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the highwayman.**

**When the highwayman arrives Bess pulls the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the rifle. She is killed but the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is warned. He rides off. When he finds out what has happened he returns. The soldier shoots him down. On winter nights the \_\_\_\_\_ of the two lovers return to the old inn.**

1. ***The Highwayman* by Alfred Noyes**

Answer the following questions on 'The Highwayman':

1) Write down the lines that tell you what the weather is like when the poem begins.

2) Write down the lines that tell you what the Highwayman was wearing.

3) What does Bess the landlord's daughter look like?

4) Write down the lines that tell you what she looked like.

5) What does Tim the ostler look like?

6) Write down the lines that tell you that.

7) Where is the Highwayman going after he leaves Bess?

8) What did King George's men do when they arrived at the inn?

9) Why did the men come to the inn?

10) Describe how the soldiers tied Bess up.

11) Write down the words the poet has used to describe the sound of the Highwayman's horse.

12) Why did Bess decide to shoot herself?

13) How do you think King George's men found out that the Highwayman was going to be at the inn?

1. ***The Highwayman* by Alfred Noyes**

In the poem *The Highwayman*, the poet uses similes and metaphors to give the reader a good picture of the things he is describing.

A simile is when the poet says something is like something else; for example, 'the sun is like a giant orange'.

A metaphor is when the poet describes one thing as if it is something else; for example, 'the wind is the breath of an enormous giant'.

Answer the questions below about similes and metaphors in the spaces provided:

1) "The moon was a ghostly galleon tossed upon cloudy seas."

(a) Is this a simile or a metaphor?

(b) What is the poet comparing the moon to?

(c) From reading the description, explain in your own words what you think the moon looked like.

2) "The road was a ribbon of moonlight over the purple moor."

(a) Is this a simile or a metaphor?

(b) What is the poet comparing the road to?

(c) Explain in your own words what the road looked like

3) "His eyes were hollows of madness."

(a) Is this a simile or a metaphor?

(b) Who is this describing?

(c) What picture is the poet giving us of this person through this description?

4) "his hair like mouldy hay."

(a) Is this a simile or a metaphor?.

(b) What picture is the poet giving us of this person through this description?

5) "His face burnt like a brand."

(a) Is this a simile or a metaphor?

(b) Who is this describing?

(c) What picture does this description give us of his face?

(d) Why do you think the man's face was this colour at this point in the poem?