

Name _____

Date _____

Ballads

Purpose

Ballads are narrative poems, intended to tell a story.

Structure

Ballads can have several verses. Each verse has four lines. Sometimes, verses may be repeated throughout the poem.

Rhythm

Ballads have a song-like rhythm, created by the number of beats it takes to say each line. Usually, the first and third lines in a verse contain four beats, while the second and fourth lines contain three beats.

Rhyming Pattern

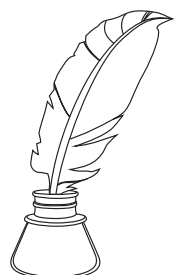
Ballads usually follow an abcb rhyming pattern.

Example

Here is an example ballad about a visit to the park.

*I went for a walk to the park one day,
And what do you think I found?
A busy bee stuck up in a tree,
And a bee hive down on the ground!*

*I bravely walked up to that bee hive,
And what do you think I did?
I poked that hive and it came alive,
So I ran away and I hid!*



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Writing a Ballad

Step 1

Choose a topic for your ballad. Here are some ideas:

- *a midnight thunderstorm*
- *forgotten homework*
- *a trip to the dentist.*

Step 2

Brainstorm what might happen in this scenario. While you are brainstorming, try and think of some rhyming words you could use.

Step 3

Write your ballad. Aim for two verses of four lines each. Remember to create a rhythm and to follow the abcb rhyming pattern.
