

Milestone Project – The Highwayman

Teacher Notes – Upper Key Stage 2

Session 1 – The Highwayman by Alfred Noyes

Core Curriculum Area – Literacy

Main Objectives

To read and discuss fiction (The Highwayman)

To summarise the main ideas drawn from The Highwayman poem and video

Participate in discussions about the key characters in the video and poem, express opinions and challenge others

Draw inferences such as inferring characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, justifying inference with evidence

Pose investigative questions and prepare formal presentations and debates

Use spoken language to develop understanding through hypothesising and speculation

Ensure their writing is well presented and punctuated, spelled correctly and neat

Cross Curricular Links

Computer Studies

History

Preparation / Resources

The Highwayman Poem by Alfred Noyes

A PPT of the Highwayman Poem

Video of The Highwayman

worksheets / witness account and detective

Access to computer

Writing materials

Introduction

Teacher informs class that they will be learning about Highwaymen and how different life was during this period in history to present day. Class discuss anything that they know about life during the times of highwaymen.

Teacher presents the poem "The Highwayman," by Alfred Noyes (this could be on video, PPT or teacher reads aloud.)

Class discuss the key events in the poem .

As a class, pupils sequence the events of that fateful night on a timeline on the IWB. (interactive whiteboard)

Teacher initiates a class debate about the incident posing questions e.g. Why did the soldiers come to the inn?

Who do you think informed the soldiers?

How do you think the highwayman felt about what happened that night?

Who do you think was responsible for Bess dying?

Teacher records answers on a flipchart or IWB.

Main Activities

Group Work

The teacher discusses the actions of some of the characters from the poem and lists some of the key characters and their characteristics.

The teacher then informs the class that they will be working in groups to carry out the main tasks.

Group A-C will be preparing witness accounts of different characters from the poem and Group D will be detectives investigating the murder / suicide of Bess at the Inn that night.

Teacher writes examples of questions for the pupils in groups A-C to consider and respond to in their own words :

Where were you? What did you see?

What did you hear?

How did it make you feel?

Do you suspect anyone of betrayal?

Activity Tasks

Group A

Teacher distributes activity worksheet for pupils to write on.

Prepare a witness account and formal presentation from The Highwayman about the events that unfolded on the night Bess died.

Group B

Prepare a witness account and formal presentation from Tim, The Ostler, about the events that unfolded on the night Bess died.

Group C

Prepare a witness account and formal presentation from one of the Kings Men about the events that unfolded on the night Bess died.

Group D

Using the activity sheet provided, prepare investigative questions for each of the characters in group A-C.

Plenary

At the end of this set of activities, the pupils from group D can select someone from each group or pose their questions to the whole group to investigate the events leading up to and following the tragic death of Bess.

The class then debate whether each character contributed to the tragedy or was innocent depending on how they respond to the detectives questions.