Ms. Stiles

Grade 10 English

Quarter 1

The Ballad

Students will craft a ballad that features figurative meaning, consistent line lengths, as well as end rhymes. Those who wish to perform their ballad into a song will receive a bonus for their efforts.

**Steps:**

1. Brainstorm for an idea by finding a tabloid or non-fiction article about an interesting event, celebrity, or person.
2. Read the article and identify the facts, names, places, and dates needed to recreate this story in a ballad form.
3. Return to the class model text studies to inspire your writing moves.
4. Revise as you write to find the right words, images, and metaphors.
5. Read it out loud to see if it sounds good. Ballads are meant to be performed.
6. Rewrite it so it represents your best overall effort.

**Criteria:**

Structure

* Starts *in medias res*  (begins in action, not setting)
* Tells an interesting story close to an action point, and ends with a resolution
* Consists of at least five stanzas with instances of consistent end rhymes (if you choose to use ABCB, stay with this rhyme scheme for the rest of the poem)
* Consists of lines of similar length, or an above and beyond attempt to have a consistent syllable pattern

Criteria for Success (points per stanza)

* Does it feature precisely chosen words?
* Did the ballad use some version of the traditional ballad stanza?
* Did it tell its story quickly, moving scene by scene?
* Did it use dialogue to move the plot forward?
* Did it use typical ballad tools, like repeated lines or phrases?
* Did it honour a typical rhyme scheme of the ballad (or variation thereof)?
* Was it memorable or did it reveal some element of humour?

TOTAL: /50

BONUS: Sing your ballad with original music for a total of 10 points, record you singing your ballad with original music for a total of 7 points, or perform/record a spoken word version your ballad to existing music for 3 points.

**Submission Date**

* All students must submit a hard copy of their ballad on the due date, even if it is incomplete: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Absentees must email a copy of their assignment by 5pm of the due date, and present a parent excuse on the first day back.