# Year 7 - English - Knights in Shining Armour

How can poetry challenge our preconceived ideas?

KEY KNOWLEDGE	VOCABULARY		
A ballad is a song or poem that tells a story.			
The ballad is one of the oldest forms of poetry in the English			
language. Across Europe, ballads were sung and performed to	Orally		
ordinary people and noble people alike. People remembered them			
and passed them on by reciting them to others. In the 15th century	Morals and values		
ballads began to be written down.			
Ballads are associated with music and were passed on by travellers	Stanza		
through song, in order to share news and stories orally. The catchy			
rhythm and rhyme scheme of ballads meant it was easy to	Verse		
remember them, and to pass them on to another village or			
community.	Quatrain		
The purpose, audience and context of the ballad really helps us to			
understand them. This type of literature is still relevant to our modern	Refrain		
society in terms of morals and values.			
Ballads were written about many topics. These included sharing	Syllables		
real life events and reporting news, the more shocking the better!			
Sometimes they were political, being rude about leaders and	Stressed and		
politicians, or campaigning for change. Later 'literary' ballads told	unstressed		
romantic and supernatural stories with ghosts and visions, often	Composition		
looking back in time to the days of knights and ladies.	Composition		
Want to know more? Go to BBCBitesize KS3 What is a ballad?	Poetic metre		
Authors edit writing to maximise the impact of vocabulary, grammar and	1 octio metre		
structural choices on the reader or listener – the structure of a ballad	Poetic rhythm		
affects the reader.			
The ballad's form has varied over the years but, generally, ballads     Consonance			
tell a story, have a lively rhythm, often repeat key lines and use a	Conconance		
rhyme scheme.	Assonance		
In a ballad, the rhyme scheme is usually ABCB but there are many			
variations.	Archaic language		
The rhythm comes from how certain words or parts of words are			
emphasised or stressed on each line.			

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 Typically, ballads are written in fourline stanzas called quatrains but are variations. The stanzas often include, or are followed by, a refrain. A refrain is a line that appears numerous times – like a chorus of a song. Using a refrain helps to emphasise the main moral, message or dramatic moment of the ballad. Mood

Tone

Contemporary

Evidence in the text can be used to infer the author's intention. Inferences should be supported by quotations.

Irony

Evidence is used to make convincing analysis across and between texts – quotations or referces to what happened in the text often form the basis of this evidence.

Medieval

Similes

Metaphors

Personification

Figurative language

Verbatim

Compare and contrast

- When writing about a text and the ideas it presents, it is important
  to support each of your claims with evidence from the text. This
  enables you to show how you have arrived at your conclusion –
  something you must do in order to make your analysis convincing.
  Evidence can be an example from the text or quotations from the
  text.
- Evidence must be relevant and support each idea you have about the text.
- They are used to help you prove your point showing the reader that what you say about the text is based on ideas presented in the text.
- When you provide a direct quotation, you must use quotation marks at the start and end of the quotation to show the reader that this evidence has been taken directly from the text.
- Quotations should be lifted verbatim.

Want to know more? Go to BBCBitesize KS3 How to use evidence from a text

Readers identify the effectiveness of the author's work by comparing and contrasting features of texts – setting, genre, theme, characterisation, narrative perspective, language choices, plot.

Want to know more? Go to BBCBitesize KS3 How to compare fiction texts.

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### **Questions**

1	What is a ballad?	A ballad is a poem or song that tells a story.
2	What is archaic?	Archaic means very old. Archaic language is from Anglo Saxon times.
3	What is poetic metre?	Metre is the pattern of the beats of unstressed and stressed syllables.
4	What is assonance?	Assonance is the repetition of the same vowel sounds.
5	What is consonance?	Consonance is the repetition of the same consonant sounds.
6	What is a stanza?	Stanza is a group of lines in a poem in a recurring pattern.
7	What is mood?	Mood is the target emotion – how the author wants the reader to feel.
8	What are refrains?	Refrains are phrases that is repeated at intervals throughout a poem.
9	What is a syllable?	Syllables are units of speech that has one vowel sound.
10	What is a quatrain?	Quatrain is a stanza of four lines, especially one having alternate rhymes.
11	What is atmosphere?	Atmosphere creates and maintains the intended emotion using language and imagery.
12	What is a stereotype?	Stereotype is a fixed, oversimplified view of something.