

L.O. Choose events to sequence a story



Now that we know the story of the Highwayman so well, it would be a shame to leave the poem without using some of the beautiful figurative language ourselves. Today, we will plan the narrative sequence of the tale, in preparation for writing it as a story.

Our main focus for this unit so far, has been the characters, so this is what we need to bring out in our stories. First, a reminder of the story itself...

*This version of the
poem has been put to
music by Canadian
folk singer Loreena
McKennitt*



Let's put the events in order;
use your planning sheet to make
notes to sequence the events in
each of the three main scenes
of the story - **just the top row**
of three large boxes.

Work with your partner to use
your copies of the poem.

Share with the class.

The Highwayman

PART ONE

I
The wind was a torrent of darkness among the gusty trees,
The moon was a ghastly pallid flower upon the eaves,
The road was a ribbon of moonlight over the purple moor,
And the highwayman came riding—
Riding—riding—
The highwayman came riding, up to the old inn-door.

II
Hail a French cocked-hat to the foreman, branch of box at his chin,
A coat of the clearest velvet, and breeches of brown cambray,
They arrived with ease at the window, his boots were up to the thigh
They turned with ease to the window, his boots were up to the thigh
And he rode with a powerful stride,
His pistol barked a salute,
His regular kick a salute, under the pearly sky.

III
Clear the cobble he clattered and clattered in the dark night,
And he tapped with his whip on the shutters, but all was locked and barred,
He whistled a tune to the window, and who should be waiting there
But the landlord's thick-eyed daughter,
Bess, the landlord's daughter,
Plaiting a dark red hair and only her long black hair.

IV
And dark is the dark old courtyard a white-washed cracked
Where Tim the stable boy, his hair like mossy hay,
His eyes were hollow of sadness, his hair like mossy hay,
The landlord's red-lipped daughter,
Dumb as a dog he lay down, and he heard the rubber say—
V
"Oste him, my bonny sweetheart, I'm after a prize to-night,
But I shall be back with the yellow gold before the morning light,
Her, if they press me sharply, and hurry me through the day,
Then look for me by moonlight,
Watch for me by moonlight,
I'll come to thee by moonlight, though hell should bar the way."

VI
He rose upright in the doorway, he never could reach her hand,
But she looked her heart in the moment like a flame like a brand,
And she looked her heart in the moment like a flame like a brand,
As the black cascade of perfume came tumbling over his breast,
(Oh, sweet, black waves in the moonlight)
Then he looked at his own in the moonlight, and gazed away to the West.

The Highwayman - Scene Planner

Opening Scene - Build-up (Purple moor / Old inn yard)	Main action - Bess the hostage	Climax and ending - Death of every window
Descriptive phrases I might use for this scene	Descriptive phrases I might use for this scene	Descriptive phrases I might use for this scene
Main emotion(s) How will the characters' actions show this?	Main emotion(s) How will the characters' actions show this?	Main emotion(s) How will the characters' actions show this?
Possible speech in this scene (with speech verbs)	Possible speech in this scene (with speech verbs)	Possible speech in this scene (with speech verbs)

Now for the other boxes:

Descriptive phrases I might use for this scene:

Descriptive phrases - use the language from the poem, but you can re-arrange the words or add to them. e.g. ghostly ribbon of moonlight/ galloped through a torrent of darkness

Main emotion/s:
How will the characters' actions show this?

This section is important, as our characters are going to be the focus of our writing. How do they react to show their emotions? e.g. his heart quickened as he reached the old in yard

Possible speech in this scene (with speech verbs):

Characters can also reveal their feelings, moods and qualities by what they say, and how they say it. e.g. "Do not," he growled impatiently, "stand in our way: we've a job to do."