**What is a** BALLAD **Anyway?**

**A ballad is a type of narrative poem that describes a story in a dramatic way.**

Ballad Features:

* **Stanzas:** Ballads are written in the ‘quatrain’ stanza.
* **Rhyme:** The rhyme schemes of ‘ABAB’ or ‘ABCB’ are usually used in a traditional ballad, although it can vary as long as the rhyme scheme is consistent.
* **Metre:** Ballads use the metre (syllable pattern) of 8-6-8-6 which should be consistent to establish rhythm.
* **Narrative:** A ballad is written in third person narrative, where the writer is anonymous, yet they know everything about all characters’ thoughts and actions.
* **Dialogue:** Dialogue is spoken words from, or between, characters. A ballad should include dialogue.
* **Refrain:** A refrain is one or two lines that are repeated throughout a poem. A ballad may include a refrain.
* **Chorus:** A chorus is a series of lines (can be an entire stanza) that are repeated throughout a poem. A chorus usually contrasts the stanza structure. A ballad may include a chorus.
* **Diction:** A ballad should incorporate a careful selection of words to help develop the mood and narrative.
* **Plot:** A ballad is a narrative poem with a clear beginning, middle and end to the story. A ballad should begin with something dramatic or climactic.
* **Poetic Devices**: A ballad is a form of poetry therefore it should include a variety of devices such as metaphors, similes, onomatopoeia, personification, imagery, repetition etc.