

British Literature

“Ballads” Response and Analysis



Part I

Read and annotate “Ballads”-write a one –sentence summary of each paragraph.

Read and annotate the poems by circling **any unfamiliar words or phrases**, looking them up, and paraphrasing each stanza in your own words.

Part II

Answer the following questions in **a separate piece of paper** following response to literature guidelines: answer in complete statements, provide evidence of your statements through reasoning and quotes.

You may do research on your own about the author and/or the background of the poem to better answer the questions, but remember to *paraphrase* and come to your own conclusions.

Sir Patrick Spens

1. Contrast the two **settings** mentioned in the ballad. Where’s the king? Where is Sir Patrick Spens? How does the contrast help define the new characters?
2. What happens to Sir Patrick Spens and the men? What role does the speaker think Fate played in what happens to them?
3. Do you think Sir Patrick did the right thing? Give reasons and details.

Bonny Barbara Allan

1. Why does Barbara Allan reject John Graeme? How would you describe their relationship?
2. What do John Graeme's dying words reveal about his true feelings for Barbara?
3. Do you think the ballad would be more effective if the writer had included the characters' thoughts and emotions? Explain why or why not.

Get Up and Bar the Door

1. Do you think the visitors intended to carry out their threats? Provide evidence of your answer.
2. What causes the husband to speak? Does the wife react the way you thought she would?
3. In your opinion, what comments about human nature does the ballad make? Do you agree with the comment it makes?

Extended Response:

One reason why ballads may have endured so long, is that many of their **themes** are universal. To which ballad do you react most strongly? Why? Write 2-3 paragraphs telling why and how the particular ballad affected you.

Grading Rubric

Poems are thoroughly annotated following instructions ____/10

Responses are complete and include the question as a statement. ____/5

Responses clearly indicate that you understood the selection. ____/5

Quotes and/or examples are used to support your answers ____/5

Grammar and spelling are grade level appropriate, with few or no errors ____/5

Extended response thorough and demonstrates a deep understanding of the poems ____/10

Total ____/40