

Lesson 1

- Show picture of the Highwayman. Take feedback discussing how character looks etc.
- Explain to chn that he is part of the story. What do children think the story will be about?
- Ch to mind map initial thoughts.
- Discuss what a highwayman was and what kind of person they were.
- Discuss how sometimes Highwaymen were almost admired and seen as heroic because they targeted the very rich (See Job Description below).
- Play the poem [The Highwayman.wmv - YouTube](#)

Narrative

The Highwayman rides to the Inn to meet his lover, Bess, the landlord's daughter. The highwayman signals her as he whistles a tune to the window, telling the readers that he and Bess have a habit of meeting this way. They're overheard by an inn servant, Tim, who is also in love with Bess. The highwayman tells Bess that he's going out to make a robbery, but should be back before morning. He promises her that, even if he has to go on the run, he'll return to her the next night: *I'll come to thee by moonlight, though hell should bar the way!* Such foreshadowing, of course, is never good news. Tim betrays the highwayman to the kings' soldiers.

Bess waits all day in vain. At sunset, the king's soldiers come to the inn, looking for the highwayman. They harass Bess, tie her up, and place a gun braced against her chest so she can't move. Bess is in agonies of suspense. When she hears, at last, the highwayman's horse, she shoots herself to warn him of the soldiers' trap.

The highwayman's reaction tells readers that he's smart, as well as brave. On hearing the shot, he turns around, and he rides away. The next morning he hears of Bess's death, and rides back again even faster: *Back he spurred like a madman, shrieking a curse to the sky. As Bess died for her love of him, so he dies for love of her.* The final stanzas of the poem suggest that, after death, their ghosts remain together, forever meeting at the inn window.

Children to create a glossary of unfamiliar words (casement, torrent, rapier hilt, writhed etc).

The Highwayman - Dictionary Work

Use a dictionary to find out the meanings of the following words and phrases used in the poem, 'The Highwayman' by Alfred Noyes.

cocked hat	
claret	
ostler	
casement	
pistol butts	
tawny	
stable-wicket	
peaked	
blanched	
priming	
harry	

Lesson 2

Children are to identify the reasons why highway robbery developed and then why it faded away - see sorting activity below.

- Cheap horses
- Cheap guns
- Mounted patrols set up in London
- The roads became much busier
- More people had their own coaches
- Rewards offered to informers for catching highwaymen
- Stagecoaches carries people around the country
- No police. Local constables did not travel far.
- More people used banks instead of carrying lots of money.
- Many open, lonely area outside towns
- Taverns were good places to hide and sell loot
- JPs stopped licensing taverns.
- Soldiers home from war could not find work

Children are to apply for the position of a highwayman.

If their application is successful, then they will be chosen as the highwayman during tomorrow's trail!

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Job Description for King's Guard

Job Description:

You will be required to wear full uniform when on duty. Your uniform must always be kept in good condition. You must follow all orders given to you by your King or senior officers. You must keep your King and his good people safe at all times. You will be required to arrest anyone breaking the law. You will be required to stop Highwaymen by any means, even if this means killing them.

Information

- Highwaymen often wore smart clothes and long coats. Some wore their old army uniforms.
- A mask helped them escape without being recognised. Traditionally, these masks only covered the top half of the face.
- Horses were important to the Highwayman. They needed to be capable of travelling long distances over uneven ground.
- Three cornered hat was a favourite with the Highwayman and was worn by the most famous of them all, Dick Turpin.
- The pistol was easy to carry and fitted inside pockets. They were used by both the Highwayman and by those who were trying to stop him!
- Highwaymen would have targeted carriages, drawn by a team of horses. The carriages were often full of travellers with fat purses, ripe for stealing!

Qualities needed

- Horses - fit saddles and bridles and teach vital riding commands
- Guns - repairing and maintaining various types of firearms
- Good knowledge of the local area - plan escape routes and avoid mounted patrols and busy roads.
- You must be prepared to work long hours, including nights.
- Highwaymen will be required to wear the following items: Frenched cocked-hat; a coat of claret velvet, breeches of brown doe-skin and knee high boots.

Lesson 3

The class is to be turned into a courtroom. The highwayman (Dick Turpin) is to stand trial for attempted robbery - See the Highwayman trial (Script).

Court- a place where law trials are held

Law - all the rules that tell people what they must or must not do, made by our government.

Crime- the doing of something that is against the law.

Trial - the act of hearing a case in a law court to decide whether a claim or charge is true.

Judge - a public official with power to hear cases in a law court

Jury - a group of people chosen to listen to the evidence in a law trial, and then to reach a decision, or verdict

Lawyer - a person whose job is to give advice on law, or act for others in lawsuits

Witness - a person who gives evidence in a law court

Oath - a serious promise that one will speak the truth

Evidence - something that shows, proves, or gives reason for believing.

Testimony - a statement made by one who testifies, tells, or gives proof

Verdict - the decision reached by a jury in a law case - children will be able to use their inference skills to explore characters within the narrative, and give suitable evidence for their opinions.

In case of Home learning, children could write a persuasive statement to a jury.

- I have used evidence from the poem to explain who I think is guilty
- I have used causal conjunctions to help link my points I have used formal language
- I have used rhetorical questions to make the jury think

Example,

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, I am here today to prove to you that it was, in fact, Tim the Ostler who caused the tragic death of Bess, the landlord's daughter. Of our three suspects, he is the only person who has escaped this terrible ordeal with his life. Suspicious, no?

Firstly, it is well-known that Tim worked at the same inn where Bess herself lived. Many witnesses have testified to the fact he was deeply in love with Bess but this was not reciprocated. Therefore, he would have been completely envious of the Highwayman and his relationship with Bess. Perhaps so envious that he would fabricate a plan to destroy their love...

Here we have tangible evidence of his involvement in the ordeal. At the scene of the crime, police officers found a letter written and signed by Tim himself. It was addressed to King George and notified him of a highwayman in this area. It even detailed the exact address he would return to after he had committed his latest theft.

As a result, King George's soldiers stormed into the inn and took hostage poor, innocent Bess. They left her with nothing but a shotgun strapped to her chest, which she then used to end her own life in order to protect that of her sweetheart. Even though it was Bess who pulled the trigger, without the involvement of Tim she never would have been put in such an awful position.

Consequently, I believe it is Tim who should be found guilty of Bess's murder. His jealousy and envy towards her relationship resulted in the end of her life.

Lesson 4/5

What do you think an Ostler is? What kind of work did he do? Have a look at the poem and see if there are any clues.

'And dark in the old inn-yard a stable-wicket creaked
Where Tim the ostler listened;...

Ostler was a stable hand at an inn, or a pub. It was his job to look after the horses of the men who came to the inn to have a drink.

We are led to believe that it was the ostler who betrayed the Highwayman to King George's cruel soldiers. Why do you think he did that? Can you find the passage in the poem that supports your answer?

Task:

Writing as though they are Tim the Ostler, you are to write a letter explaining how you know who the notorious Highwayman is (Dick Turpin) and how you (Tim) can assist with his arrest.

Structure

- A letter has a conventional structure with addresses at the top, an opening address using 'Dear ...' and ending with a standard salutation such as 'Yours sincerely' (if you know the reader's name) or 'Yours faithfully' (if you have started your letter 'Dear Sir/Madam').
- In a formal letter, the opening paragraph should outline the overall aim of the letter and the conclusion should summarise the main points.
- Each paragraph should link to the purpose

Language

- The language used will depend on the audience of the letter; if you are trying to persuade the reader, then your language may be

positive and upbeat in tone. If the letter is being used to make a complaint, the language is more likely to be formal, with emotive language

- See Example 1: The opening paragraph outlines the purpose of the letter to the recipient.
- The writer then explains their previous experience in sales and refers to their qualifications to show that they are suitable.
- The closing paragraph refers back to the overall purpose, and assumes that the writer expects to hear from the recipient - this shows confidence.
- Formal language is used throughout.

Example to read

Dear King George,

I am writing to let you know that I have discovered who the local Highwayman is and can assist your red coats with his arrest!

It all started last night, when I heard a clatter of hooves at the Crow inn-yard (Hampstead). As an Ostler at the Inn, it's my job to look after the horses of the customers staying at this establishment. As I went to greet what I thought was a customer, I saw a peculiar man whistling by a shuttered window. Upon closer inspection, I realised that the stranger fit the description of the notorious Highwayman: a French cocked-hat on his forehead; a bunch of lace at his chin; a coat of the claret velvet; breeches of brown doe-skin and boots up to his thigh. I thought about making a citizen's arrest, but I didn't have my trusty pistol to hand. Just then, Bess, the Landlord's daughter opened the window and kissed the fugitive! As they moved from the casement to the courtyard, he let slip about his plan to rob the _____, a wealthy man who often passes through the town on business! I also overheard him say that he'll be returning before Wednesday's moonlight and will be arriving from the west.

I suggest sending redcoats in disguise to avoid Bess alerting Mr. Turpin. Make sure they arrive no later than sunset, before the rise of the moon as that's when the Highwayman will come riding over the brow of the hill. I ask for nothing in return other than reassurance that no harm will come to Bess who I plan to marry in the near future. She is innocent and has been misled by the Highwayman who has poisoned her mind with lies and trickery.

Yours sincerely,
Tim (Ostler)

Give the following structure to lower ability children

Dear King George,

Paragraph 1

- Why you are writing

Paragraph 2

- Working as an Ostler, you heard a clatter of hooves upon the cobbled path
- Peculiar man whistling at the window
- Fit the description of Dick Turpin, a fugitive
- I would have done a citizens arrest, but I had no pistol (coward)
- Revealed his plans to Bess.

Paragraph 3

- You overheard him tell Bess when he'd be back
- Suggest sending guards in disguise to avoid Bess and her father alerting Mr.Turpin.
- Take it easy on Bess - she's been easily misled by Mr.Turpin

Yours Faithfully,
Tim the Ostler.

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