

Amethyst Knowledge Organiser – ‘The Highwayman’ by Alfred Noyes

Characters	
The Highwayman	The protagonist – a ruthless outlaw on the run from King George’s men who falls in love with Bess.
Bess	The landlord’s daughter who falls in love with the Highwayman and dies tragically.
Bess’ Father	The landlord of the inn.
King George’s Men	The king’s soldiers who try to capture the Highwayman.
Tim the Ostler	A stable keeper who falls in love with Bess and gives away the Highwayman’s location to King George.

Important Information
<u>Plot</u> The poem is about a thief who falls in love with a landlord’s daughter. The highwayman is wanted by the king for his crimes. Tim, the ostler, gives away the highwayman’s whereabouts and the king’s men try and find him. They tie Bess up in the hope that he will return to rescue her.
<u>Themes:</u> Tragedy, dilemma, romance
<u>Setting:</u> The poem, set in 18th century rural England and occurs around the town’s roads and at an inn.

Quotes

“The wind was a torrent of darkness among the gusty trees,
The moon was a ghostly galleon tossed upon cloudy seas.”



The British poet **Alfred Noyes** is remembered chiefly for his lyrical verse. His poetry is typically traditional in form and romantic in theme. Noyes was born in Wolverhampton, Staffordshire, England, on Sept. 16, 1880.

Some very useful vocabulary:			
ale	noun - a strong kind of beer	curse	noun - swearing or wishing for something bad to happen
barred	adjective - kept closed with bars	dawning	noun - the first sight of sun in the morning
bonny	adjective - attractive or pretty	doe-skin	noun - the skin of a female deer
bound	verb - tied up or tied to something	gagged	verb - put something in the mouth to stop speech
brand	noun - a mark with made burning with hot iron	curse	noun - swearing or wishing for something bad to happen
brandished	verb - waving a weapon in a menacing way	galleon	noun - a large sailing ship used for war or trade
harry	verb - to harass or torment someone	breeches	noun - old-fashioned knee length trousers
hilt	noun - the handle of a sword	cascade	noun - water or liquid falling or rushing steeply
hollows	noun - unfilled spaces (like holes)	casement	noun - an old-fashioned window that opens with hinges at the side air.