

Traditional Folk Ballad Assignment

Through our activities, you have constructed a list of common characteristics of folk ballads, you have enacted the narrative aspect of the ballads, and you have compared traditional and modern ballads. Now, it is time for you to demonstrate your understanding of the form by writing an original ballad in the same poetic form as the traditional ballads.

You will work with a group to construct the ballad and present your ballad to the class. To get started:

- Review your favorite ballad and discuss with your group members why it is your favorite. This might spark ideas to write about.
- Think of current events to write historical ballads such as "The Ballad of Birmingham" or "Sir Patrick Spens."
- Think of other real-life drama to write ballads similar to "Barbara Allen" or "Edward."

Remember that you will be sharing these ballads with others in the class.