

Unit : 1


The Ballad

Definition :


- A ballad is a type of poem that is sometimes set to music . Ballads have a long history and are found in many cultures. The ballad actually began as a folk song and continues today in popular music . Many love songs today can be considered ballads.
- A typical ballad consists of stanzas that contain a quatrain , or four poetic lines . The meter or rhythm of each line is usually iambic , which means it has one unstressed syllable followed by a stress syllable . In ballads , there are usually eight or six syllables in a line .



Origin :

- While ballads have always been popular, it was during the Romantic movement of poetry in the late 18th century that the ballad had a resurgence and become a popular form . Many famous romantic poets like William Wordsworth wrote in the ballad form.
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Structure of a Ballad :

- The core structure for a ballad is a quatrain , written in either abab or abcb rhyme schemes . The first and third lines are iambic tetrameter , with four beats per lines; the second and fourth lines are in trimeter , with three beats per line .
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Ballad in a song :

- 'A ballad is a song that tells a story , and it can be dramatic, funny or romantic. You can find ballad in a variety of musical styles, from country western to rock rioll . The ballad is an old musical form. Ballads are often by anonymous composers , passed down from generation to generation .'



Characteristics of a Ballad :

- 1) It is a relatively short narrative poem.
- 2) It has a simple and dramatic action.
- 3) The ballads tell of love , death ,the supernatural , a historical event or a combination of these.
- 4) Ballad often open abruptly.
- 5) It uses concise dialogue.
- 6) The ballad stanza is a quatrain in which the second and the fourth lines rhyme while the first and the third lines do not (abcb) .



Types of Ballads

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graph TD; A[Types of Ballads] --> B[Folk Ballad]; A --> C[Literary Ballad]; B --> D[Orally transmitted & meant to be sung]; C --> E[To write composition by a single poet & meant to be read];
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Folk Ballad

Orally transmitted
& meant to be
sung

Literary Ballad

To write
composition by a
single poet &
meant to be read

Types of Ballads :

□ 1) Folk Ballad :

- The folk ballad is usually anonymous and the presentation impersonal . It is orally transmitted and meant to be sung . It is a popular form.

□ 2) Literary Ballad :

- The literary ballad , unlike the folk ballad , is a sophisticated rather than a popular form . Unlike the anonymous , folk ballad , the literary ballad is a written composition by a single poet and it is meant to be read.



..The End..