

Name _____ **Ballad**



The Ballad

A ballad is a (typically long) narrative poem, written in a series of four-line stanzas. Often but not always, the second and third lines rhyme. Some ballads are written in rhymed couplets.

A ballad is also a song form. Musical ballads tend to have a slow rhythm and tell an emotional story.

YOUR ASSIGNMENT: Choose one musical ballad and one ballad poem from the lists below. Write a short paper that compares and contrasts them as examples of the ballad form.

| Musical Ballads | Ballad Poems |
|---|---|
| Knockin' on Heaven's Door (Bob Dylan) | The Ballad of the Dark Ladie (Samuel Taylor Coleridge) |
| Piano Man (Billy Joel) | The Ballad of East and West (Rudyard Kipling) |
| You've Lost that Lovin' Feeling (Righteous Brothers) | Bridal Ballad (Edgar Allan Poe) |
| American Pie (Don McLean) | The Ballad of the Landlord (Langston Hughes) |
| Stairway to Heaven (Led Zeppelin) | Ballad of the Long-Legged Bait (Dylan Thomas) |
| Desperado (The Eagles) | A Boston Ballad (Walt Whitman) |