

## Paper 6

The wind was a torrent of darkness among the gusty trees,  
The moon was a ghostly galleon tossed upon cloudy seas,  
The road was a ribbon of moonlight over the purple moor,  
And the highwayman came riding –

Riding – riding –

5

The highwayman came riding, up to the old inn-door.

He'd a French cocked-hat on his forehead, a bunch of lace at his chin,  
A coat of claret velvet, and breeches of brown doe skin;  
They fitted with never a wrinkle: his boots were up to the thigh!  
And he rode with a jewelled tinkle,

10

His pistol butts a-twinkle,  
His rapier hilt a-twinkle, under the jewelled sky.

Over the cobbles he clattered and clashed in the dark inn-yard,  
And he tapped with his whip on the shutters, but all was locked and barred;  
He whistled a tune to the window, and who should be waiting there

15

But the landlord's black-eyed daughter,  
Bess, the landlord's daughter,  
Plaiting a dark red love-knot into her long black hair.

And dark in the old inn-yard a stable-wicket creaked  
Where Tim the ostler listened; his face was white and peaked;  
His eyes were hollows of madness, his hair like mouldy hay,  
But he loved the landlord's daughter,

20

The landlord's red-lipped daughter;  
Dumb as a dog he listened, and he heard the robber say –

'One kiss, my bonny sweetheart, I'm after a prize tonight,  
But I shall be back with the yellow gold before the morning light;  
Yet, if they press me sharply, and harry me through the day,  
Then look for me by moonlight,

25

Watch for me by moonlight,

I'll come to thee by moonlight, though hell should bar the way.'

30

He rose upright in the stirrups; he scarce could reach her hand,  
But she loosened her hair i' the casement! His face burnt like a brand  
As the black cascade of perfume came tumbling over his breast;  
And he kissed its waves in the moonlight,

(Oh, sweet black waves in the moonlight!)

35

Then he tugged at his rein in the moonlight, and galloped away to the west.

From *The Highwayman* by Alfred Noyes

Answer these questions.

1 At what time of day was this poem set? \_\_\_\_\_

2 What was 'a ribbon of moonlight'? \_\_\_\_\_

3 What colour was The Highwayman's coat? \_\_\_\_\_

4 How many people do we know were in love with the landlord's daughter?  
\_\_\_\_\_

5 Explain what is meant by the words 'jewelled sky' (line 12).  
\_\_\_\_\_

6-8 Highlight three distinct differences between The Highwayman and Tim.  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9 Why do you think Tim was described as 'Dumb as a dog' (line 24)?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10-11 What prize do you think The Highwayman was after? Which line in the passage conveys this?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12 Who might 'harry' (line 27) The Highwayman?  
\_\_\_\_\_

13-15 How would you describe the landlord's daughter, as shown in the poem?  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

16 The Highwayman is a narrative poem. What is a narrative poem?  
\_\_\_\_\_

17-20 Explore the ways in which the poet creates the sense of confidence surrounding The Highwayman. Support your answer with lines from the poem.  
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