



Ballads

An introduction

Hi Year 7!

This is an introduction to our new topic for a few weeks- Ballads. Read through the slides carefully- they will help you recognise the key features of this simple and fun type of poem.

In this lesson we will explore what ballads were used for and key features that they tend to have in common. You will read two examples to compare these features for yourselves.

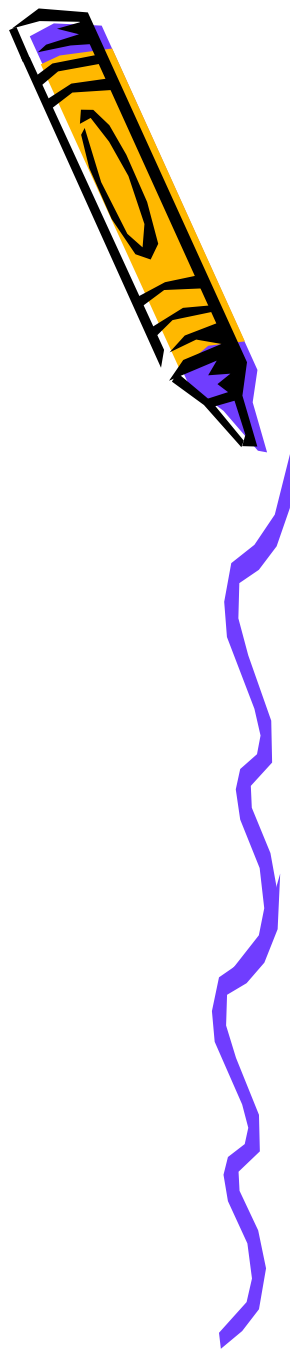
At the end of the lesson you will write your own short ballad based on an animal.

Miss Hall

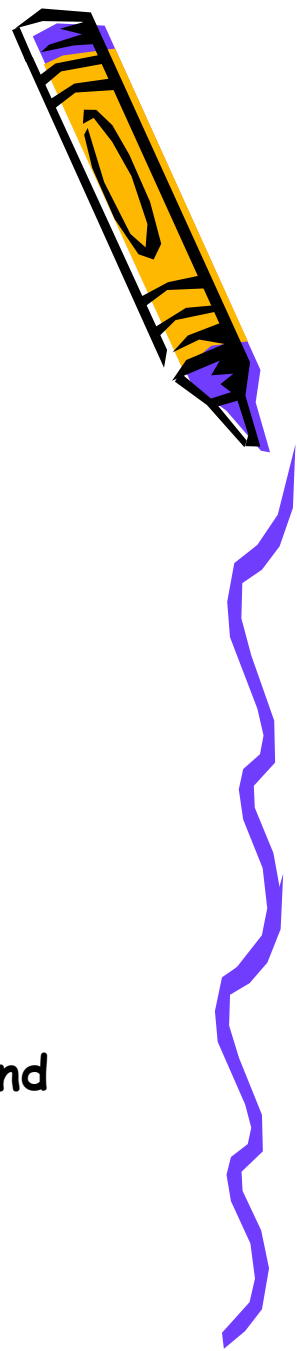


Lesson Objectives:

- To understand what a ballad is and why they were used.
- To recognise some key features shared by ballads.



Answer me this...

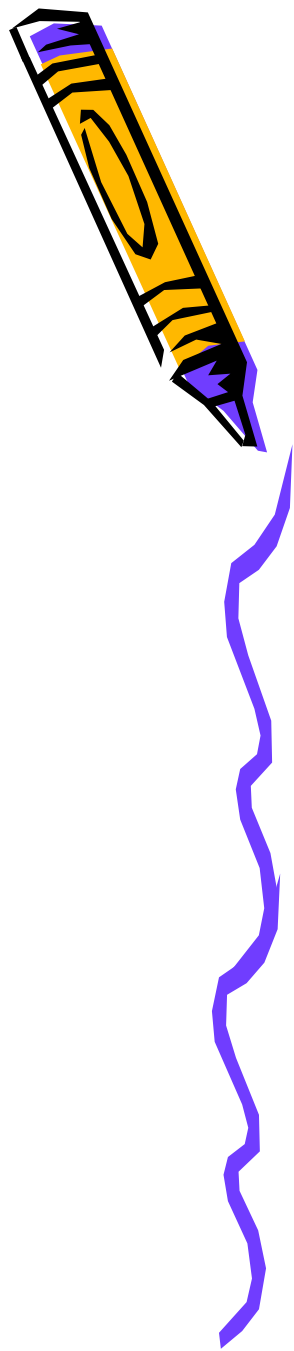


Why do we watch the news?

To find out about important events
that are happening near us and around
the world.



Has the news
always been
communicated
through TV and
newspapers?



Thought shower:

How were stories and the news communicated:

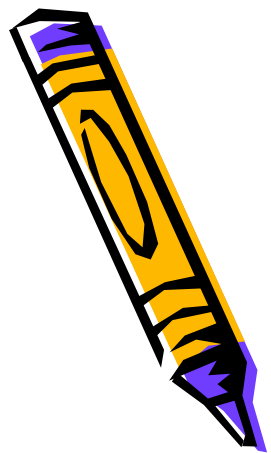
50 years ago?

T.V., Cinema announcements,
radio, newspapers

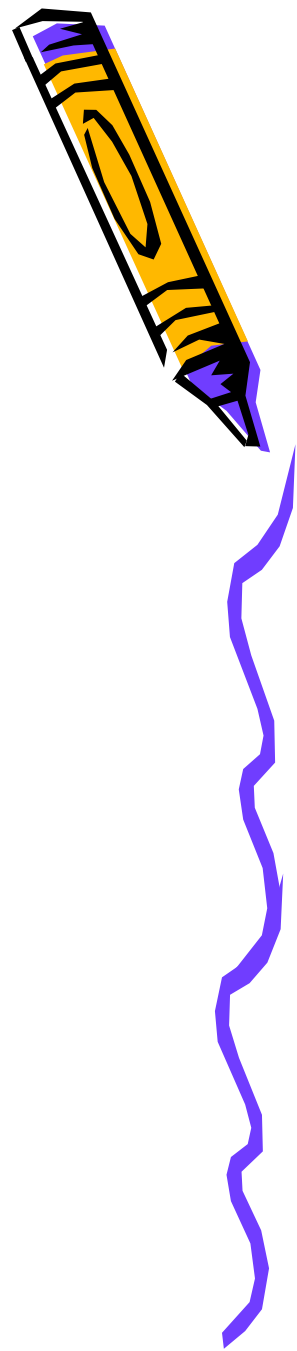
100 years ago? Newspapers and word of mouth

200 years ago?

Word of mouth mainly, occasional newspaper if you could read but not all that many people could.



What is a Ballad?



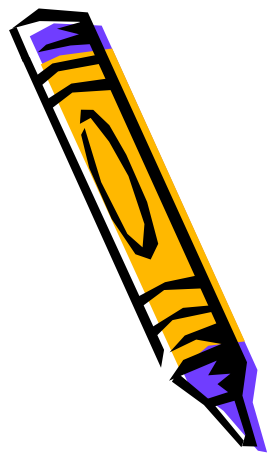
May I introduce...Ballads!

A BALLAD was a poem or a song that narrated a popular story.

It can also be a slow, romantic song.

Who do you think the Balladeer was?

Someone who sang or told a ballad.



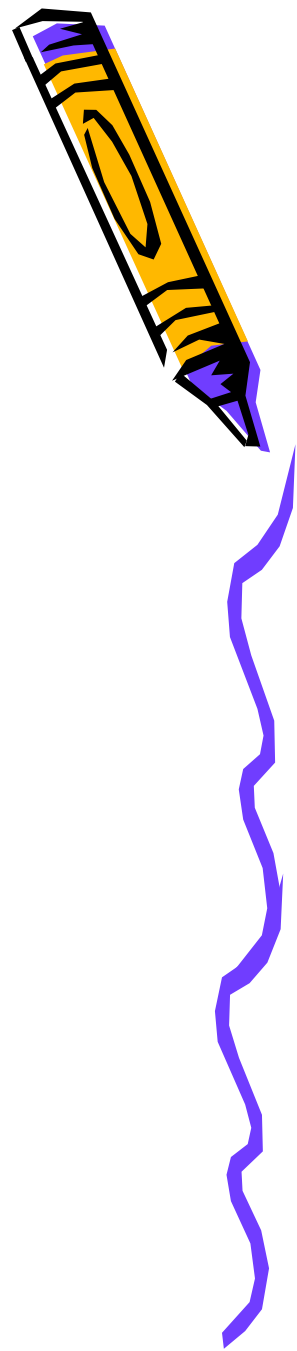
Why were Ballads used?



Ballads were used to communicate news and stories.

e.g. Homer tells the story of 'The Odyssey.'



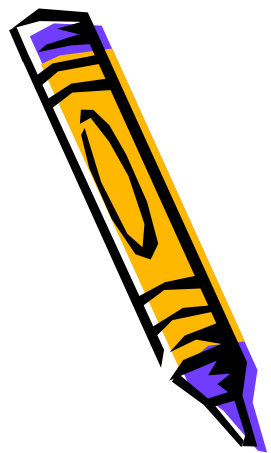


What is a Ballad?



7P Music Chart 2020

In your books, write down the VERSE
AND CHORUS of your favourite pop
song.



How do you remember them so easily?



Why do you think it is so easy for us to remember the lyrics to songs?

They use rhyme and lots of repetition in choruses. They also have a rhythm which along with the rhyme pattern or scheme, help us predict what words will come next.



Here are a few more ideas about
how we remember lyrics...



Repetition

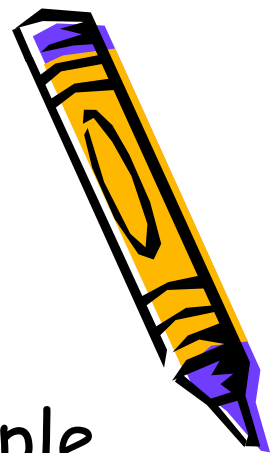
Rhyme

Alliteration

Catchy tune



What Were Ballads Used for?



- Ballads were song-like stories using simple language that were to help tell stories, deliver news of important events and often deliver a message or moral.
- They were part of the oral tradition of story telling and passing on information used in the past before we relied on reading and screens.



This is an example of a stanza (verse) from a ballad.

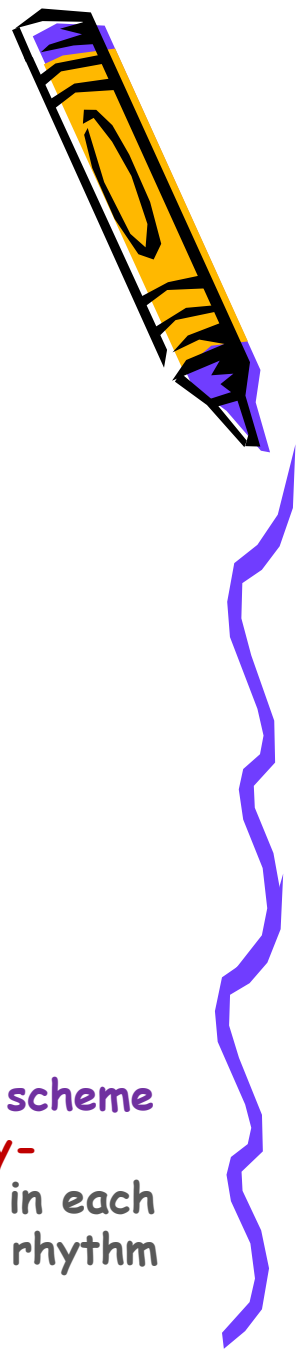
They often followed a "recipe". They often have:

- Stanzas (verses) of 4 lines
- A rhyme scheme
- Similar line lengths, rhythm and syllable counts
- A story and a moral
- A chorus or repeated words through the poem.
- Alliteration

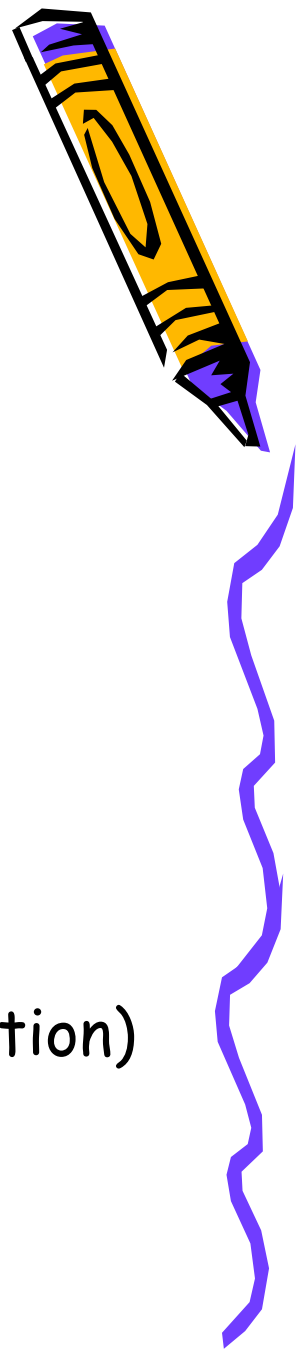
This verse form "The Ballad of Homeless Jack" verse demonstrates what I mean...

So why not spare for Homeless Jack (8 syllables) **A**
a coin, a nod, a grin, (7 syllables) **B**
to hold the tide of hopelessness (8 syllables) **C**
from coldly creeping in (6 syllables) **B**

It has verses of 4 lines. It has a standard ballad rhyme scheme of A B C B. It uses alliteration. It has a moral and story-please help homeless people like Jack. The syllable count in each line are between 6-8 syllables which helps keep a steady rhythm or beat.



Read the two examples I have given you, "The Ballad of Homeless Jack" and "The sad Story of Lefty and Ned".



You will notice that they all have the following:

- A story
- A moral
- A rhyme scheme
- Rhythm- Similar syllable counts in each line.
- A chorus or words that are repeated (repetition)

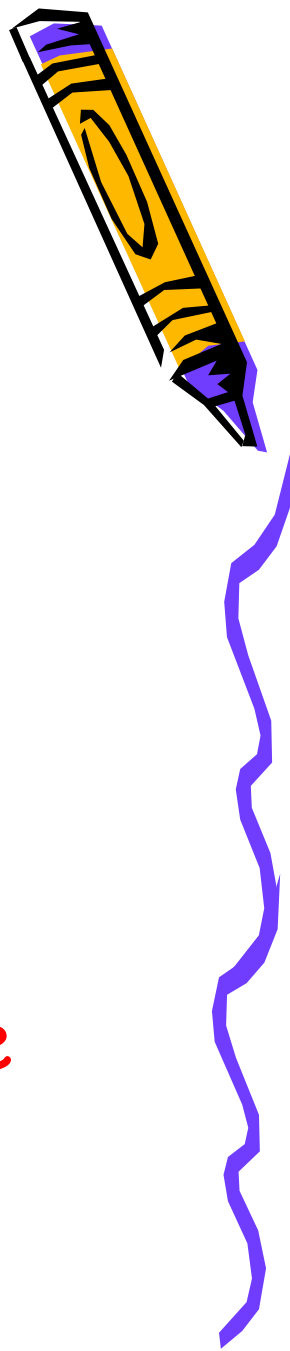


We will study them in greater depth next lesson.

Task:

Have a go at writing a rhyming poem about an animal of your choice.

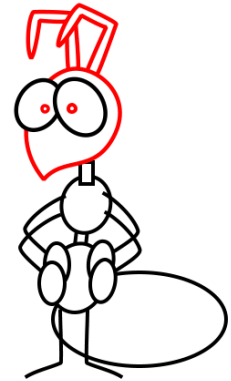
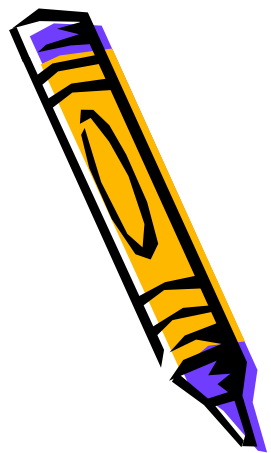
It should be written in stanzas (verses) of 4 lines each. Try to use some rhyme too.



Example:

Angus the Ant likes to walk.
He's always hungry and he likes to talk.
He scurries around every night and day,
Finding friends who want to play.

Then one day he saw a man,
Walking towards him with a suntan.
Angus went up to say howdy do,
But the man just squashed him with his shoe.



What have I
learnt this lesson?

