

BALLADS

The Ingredients of a Ballad

Ballads are often sung or told aloud, with a definite pattern of rhyme and rhythm to help the narrator remember the story.

Stories within ballads are usually about feats of heroism or endurance, and can be tragic, romantic or swash-buckling adventure tales.

Read the ballads you have selected aloud.

Now make an ingredients grid for your ballads like the example below (yours will need to be **much** bigger than this!)

	Ballad 1	Ballad 2	Ballad 3
Story			
Moral			
Chorus			
Rhythm			
Rhyme			
Shape			

REMEMBER

- Story:** What happens in the ballad? Who are the main characters? What sort of narrative is it?
- Moral:** Is there a message in the ballad? What is the writer trying to teach us?
- Chorus:** Are certain words, phrases or lines repeated? Pick out some examples. Is there a pattern to these repetitions? Try to describe the pattern.
- Rhythm:** Try to describe the pace of the ballad. Does the pace change at different points in the story? Why? What is the mood of the ballad?
- Rhyme:** Is there a pattern to the rhyming words? Try to describe this pattern and say where these rhyming words occur.
- Shape:** Is the poem written in one long piece or is it broken up into verses? If so, how many lines in each verse?