

Ballad: A Good Story Set to Music

“To survive, you must tell stories.” --Umberto Eco

“You’re never going to kill storytelling because it’s built into the human plan. We come with it.” --Margaret Atwood

According to Vocabulary.com, a **ballad** is a song that tells a story; it can be dramatic, funny, or romantic. You can find ballads in a variety of musical styles, from country-western to rock n' roll. The ballad is an old musical form, often by anonymous composers, and as in other oral traditions, passed from generation to generation.

For this project, you will be placed in pairs. As a pair, you will decide on one traditional ballad to analyze together. Your ballad **MUST** have roots in the British Isles. As a pair, you will analyze the ballad. After, you will **individually** create original **ekphrastic** artwork in response to the artwork that you analyzed. **Ekphrasis** is a Greek term that means art inspired by art. Please see the [Google calendar](#) for more specific details.

Step 1: Complete a **project proposal** including the following (DUE Fri, Sept 9 at END of Core):

1. **Your ballad choice (get this confirmed by your Core teacher before completing the rest of the proposal)**
 - ✓ Must be a traditional ballad, AND you need to be able to find a recording and lyrics
2. **Answers to the following questions:**
 - ✓ What story does the ballad tell?
 - ✓ Why do you think this ballad may have been written (answer this BEFORE researching)?
 - ✓ What do you like about this ballad (why did you choose it)?

Step 2: In your group, you will find answers to the following questions as your initial research (in lieu of the Initial FQs). Using your STUDENTNUMBER@vansd.net account, you will create a shared notebook in Google Drive with the following art analysis sections (DUE electronically on Friday, Sept 16 at the END of Core)

1. BASIC INFORMATION

- What type of ballad is this (broadsides, laments and love songs, OR conversations)?
- When & where was this ballad created?

2. QUESTIONS IN ART CRITICISM

Interpret your artwork:

- Interpretive Statement: Express what the ballad is about in one sentence.
- Consider the evidence from the ballad itself and from outside sources (yes, research) to support your interpretation. Use MLA in-text citations (must correspond with Works Cited page) for outside sources.
 - You **MUST** address 3 of the 4 questions in your answer for a score of 3:
 - Does the ballad have an obvious or not-so-obvious function?
 - Does the ballad use symbols to reinforce a message? (List)
 - What audience was the ballad created for? What evidence within (or outside) supports your idea?
 - Do you think contemporary viewers hearing the ballad understand it in the same way as it was understood in the past? Why or why not?

3. ANNOTATED WORKS CITED

- Minimum of 3 sources
- Use the MLA annotated works guidelines on your Core teacher’s web page.

4. INDIVIDUAL ARTWORK PROPOSAL

Create a proposal for an individual piece of artwork in response to your group’s art piece (Ekphrasis).

1. Your piece should address ONE OR MORE of the following prompts. Select ONE and explain how your project will address this prompt:
 - What is a central truth that the artwork expresses? Create a new piece that expresses this same truth in a different way.
 - How does the artwork make you feel? Create an expressive piece in response.
 - What story does the artwork tell? Tell this story in a different way.
 - Other? Just ask!
2. Describe your artwork in detail. WHAT will it look like, sound like, etc.? What materials will you need?
3. HOW will you create your artwork? Describe the process that you will need to follow. Using the dates below, create a calendar for your project.

Important Dates (all due dates are at the END of Core)

GROUP ballad selection DUE: Fri, Sept 9

GROUP art analysis questions with WC page and INDIVIDUAL artwork proposals DUE:
Fri, Sept 16

all of the dates below are individual deadlines

Progress check DUE: Fri, Sept 30

Peer & adult feedback DUE: Thurs, Oct 13

Portfolio DUE: Mon, Nov 7

Presentations: Wed, Nov 9 - Fri, Nov 18

Final FQs DUE: Fri, Dec 2