

Date: _____



The Highway Man – Comprehension Questions

- 1) Find and copy two words in the first verse which show it was very windy:

_____gusty_____ _____torrent_____

2 marks

- 2) Find and copy **two** metaphors from the first verse:

_____The moon was a ghostly galleon_____

_____The road was a ribbon of moonlight_____

2 marks

- 3) What time of day is it when the poem begins? How do you know?

_____Night because it describes the moon as a ghostly galleon and the road
was a ribbon of moonlight._____

2 marks

- 4) What does the phrase 'ribbon of moonlight' tell us about the road?

_____it was thin and winding_____

2 marks

- 5) Name three things which the Highwayman was wearing:

French-cocked hat, a bunch of lace at his chin, coat of claret velvet,
breeches of brown doe skin, boots up to the thigh

1 mark

- 6) Why do you think the Highwayman rode to the inn?

_____to see Bess_____

1 mark

7) Who is Tim?

the ostler who looks after horses

1 mark

8) How does Tim feel about the Highwayman talking to the Inn Keeper's daughter? Find evidence from the text to support your answer.

He is angry – it says his face was white and peaked and his eyes were hollows of madness

2 marks

9) What does the Highwayman promise Bess?

He'll come back for her

1 mark

10) Part Two verse 1 describes the arrival of King George's soldiers, who do you think told them the Highwayman was coming?

Tim the Ostler

1 mark

11) Put these events in the order that they happen in the poem:

The Highwayman is shot down on the highway	<u>4</u>
Tim, the ostler, overhears the Highwayman's promise	<u>2</u>
The Highwayman rides to the inn	<u>1</u>
Tim tells the king's soldiers that the Highwayman will return	<u>3</u>

1 mark

12) Why does the poet use **present tense** in the final two verses?

Because the ghosts are still doing it, it is still happening

2 marks

13) Using information from the text, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**:

Statement	True	False
Bess was the innkeeper's daughter.	x	
Bess was in love with Tim.		x
The Highwayman didn't care when he found out about Bess' death.		x
The inn was closed when the Highwayman arrived.	x	

1 mark

14) **Find and copy** two words or phrases which tell you that this poem is set a long time ago:

breeches

ostler

1 mark

15) Why do you think that red is the only colour mentioned repeatedly throughout the poem?

warning, death, love

3 marks