

# Year 8 English

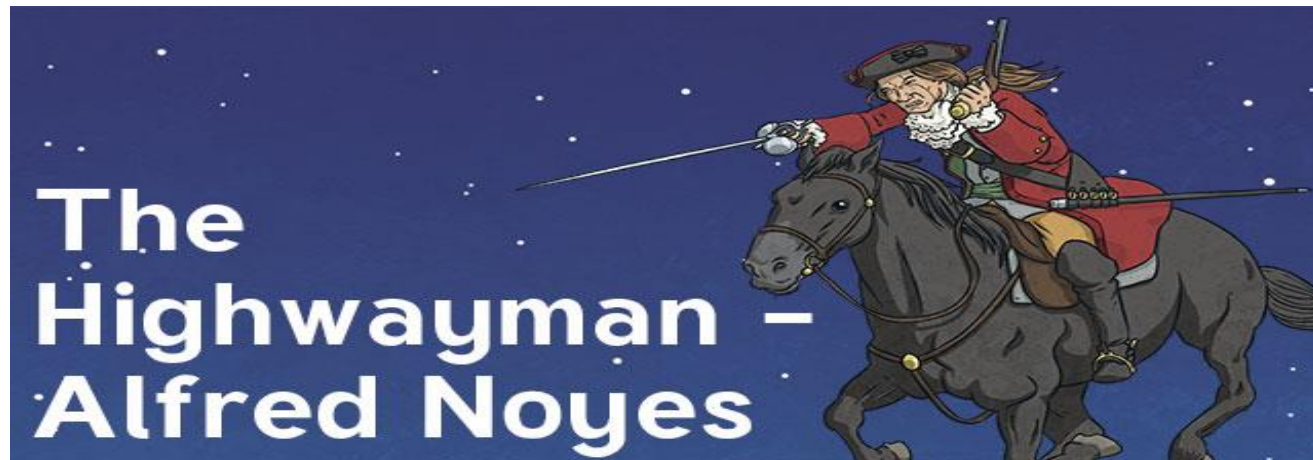
Week beginning 22nd June 2020



LO:

To know what the term theme means with regard to literature.

To identify themes in The Highwayman



# What are Themes?



Theme can be found in poems, drama, or stories.

Themes are ideas or points raised by a text or more specifically, the message or lesson, that the author wants you to learn from the story.



The theme is not always directly stated by the author.

Sometimes, as a reader, you will have to think about the events of the story to determine the theme.

# When trying to determine the theme, ask yourself...

- What was the problem in the story?
- How did the characters respond to the problem?
- How did the characters change in the story?
- What did the characters learn in the story?
- What sticks with you, as the reader?





# Finding a Theme

## Characters' Actions

- The wolf blew down the first two pigs' houses.
- At the third pig's brick house, he tried to go down the chimney.



## How Actions Affected Outcome

- The wolf did not get the pigs.
- The wolf got burned.

## Theme of "The Three Little Pigs"

The theme of "The Three Little Pigs" is revenge. The wolf blew down two pigs' houses. When he couldn't blow down the third pig's brick house, he tried to go down the chimney. Unfortunately, the pigs put a pot of hot water at the bottom. The wolf did not get the pigs, but he did get burned. The pigs got revenge on the wolf.



# Give it a try!

Read or listen to this short story then private chat message me about what the theme may be.

Derryon came into the classroom each day with a smile on his face as he said hello to all his classmates. He loved to help others. When a classmate dropped their crayon box, Derryon was the first to stop and help. If a friend was confused about a question, he would do his best to help them understand. One week, Derryon caught a cold. He was out of school for a whole week. When he came back, he was very behind on his work, and felt lost in class. All of his classmates were excited to help Derryon get caught up. Some friends even gave up their recess time to help Derryon understand the math lessons he missed.



# Now give it a try with a poem!

Read or listen to this poem then private chat message me about what the theme of the poem may be.



If everyday, you were sad and blue  
Just because you were you,  
Then every day would be wasted away  
From all the wonderful things you could do and say.

A flower begins just small and brown  
Then grows and blooms up from the ground.  
The new creation is stunning to see,  
As it become the thing it is meant to be.



# Stories, Plays and Poems can often have multiple themes.

- You need to think about the ideas or topics addressed in a text. These are usually one word ideas such as judgement, heroism, death, good vs evil etc.
- Some other common topics or ideas are:





Let's see how some topics/ideas are shown:



# The Topics/ideas in The Highwayman

- I am quickly going to read the poem
- As I do, think of the topics or ideas that are included in the poem
- I found four – you might find more.
- Private chat message me with what you think.



# This is what I found?

- Love



- Loyalty



- Revenge or betrayal



- Death



Now we know the topics or ideas we need to work out what we are supposed to learn or know from them

For example:

- Courage could mean being brave, doing the right thing or facing adversity.
- Honesty could mean always telling the truth, that being honest gives reward or that honesty is not a good thing!

# Let's look at one of the ideas from the poem:

What is the reader trying to tell us about death?

If you do something bad  
you will die.



It is good to die for what  
you believe in.

That some people die when  
they shouldn't.

Everyone is going to die.

Death might not be the end  
of everything - ghosts!



Deciding what we are meant to learn or understand from the key ideas gives us the theme.

- What do the other ideas make you think of as themes?
- Private message me your ideas!
- You cannot get this wrong so long as you can tell me why!



# Homework Task

You can do this work on a computer or write in on a piece of paper.

- Choose one of the key ideas of the poem and write about the themes it suggests. Don't forget to say why you think this is a theme - add evidence as a quote from the poem to prove your thoughts
- A copy of the poem has been added to the website.
- Send your work or a photograph of it if you hand write it to Mrs Shaddock:

[maryon.shaddock@grangepark.kent.sch.uk](mailto:maryon.shaddock@grangepark.kent.sch.uk)

# End of Lesson

- Have a good week everyone. I will look forward to seeing your work and seeing all of you again next Friday.

Goodbye!