

The Ballad tradition of the British Isles - The Middle Ages and The early Modern Period.

Introduction

Men and Women

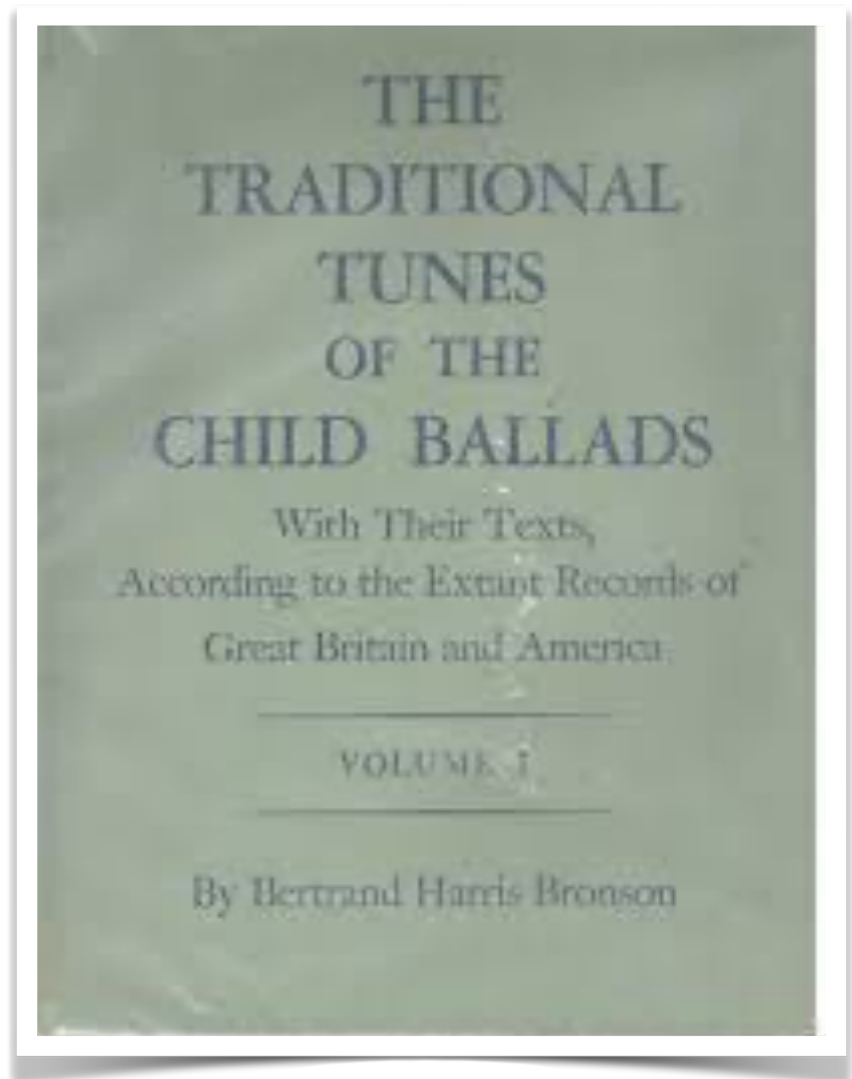
Get up and Bar the Door
Lord Randal
Twa sisters

Historical

Sir Patrick Spence
The Death of Queen Jane
Flodden Field

Supernatural

Wife of Usher's Well
The Unquiet Grave



Aims: Students will learn...

...researching skills

...how to research and structure an informative essay

...the story in the Ballads studied

...how to analyse poetic techniques in the ballads studied

...how to compare different versions of the ballads mentioned

Objectives: Students will...

...research the ballad tradition of the British Isles

...research and structure an informative essay, and write an informative essay, using linking phrases as given

... learn more about the tradition through the use of modern genres and mediums, such as modern ballads, newspaper articles, modern letter writing.

...show their understanding of the ballads studied

...show their analysis of the ballads in written notes

...show their understanding of comparing different versions of the ballads mentioned

...show their understanding of the ballad stories by writing a newspaper article, modern ballad, letter etc.



Starter Activity: Quick, fun activity: Ballad Generator

Task: Create your own ballad using a ballad/poem generator:

<https://www.song-lyrics-generator.org.uk/create.php?song=13>

Introduction

Instead of me giving you an introduction, you're going to do it. Fun, eh?

Task: Research the ballad tradition of the British Isles:

How to research:

- Ask yourself questions about the Medieval Ballads in Britain (but the essay structure below will give you a place to start).
- Divide up your research into the paragraphs in the essay plan below.
 - For example: Introduction - what is a ballad. Surprise, surprise your search criteria could be, 'what is a ballad?' But you can/and should tailor this criteria by changing it in your second search to 'what is a medieval ballad'? In which case you are looking for additional information on the medieval ballad specifically.
- Use at least 3 sources for each paragraph. Don't just use wiki. There's nothing wrong with wiki as a place to start but see it as a place to start.
- Go to a library... remember those?
 - Find a book! Just because it's published doesn't mean it's any good, but read it to find out anyway.
 - Ask the librarian for any other books on the Ballad Tradition. They can order them in for you.
- Research criteria questions and findings
- Write down your search criteria (for internet research) and your questions for you to keep in mind when reading those books you're going to get from the library.
- Write your findings next to them.
- Use another sheet of paper if you find yourself inspired and need more space (which you will, obviously).

Essay structure/Plan

- Introduction -
 - What is a ballad?
 - What is the ballad Tradition?
 - Timeline of the Ballads of the Medieval period and The Early Modern period.
- Summary of the Medieval Ballads
- Summary of the Ballad tradition after the Medieval period.
- Classification -
 - Traditional
 - Broadside
 - Literary
 - Border Ballads
- Popular Ballad Topics
- Famous Ballads (examples)
- The Ballad Form and Rhyme
- Tropes and recurring techniques
- Recurring messages
- Conclusion -
 - Sum up the points made in one or two brief sentences about each

Introduction

Classification

Popular Ballad Topics

Famous Medieval Ballads

The Ballad Form and Rhyme

Tropes and recurring techniques

Recurring messages

Conclusion

1st Draft

- Collate your information in the above paragraph structure
- Keep your paragraphs focused on the main point
- Paragraphs can be structures thus:
 - Topic sentence with linking phrase that establishes the main idea of the paragraph.
 - Make a point.
 - Provide evidence for that point (for example, a quote).
 - Explain the point with analysis.

2nd Draft

- Check for spelling, grammar mistakes, etc.
- Improve on sentence structure by using a variety of:
 - Short sentences
 - Parenthesis
 - Lists
 - Semi colons for a more complex and balanced sentence structure
 - Repetition
- Improve on important word choice by using a thesaurus:
<https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english-thesaurus>
- Use linking phrases to connect points



Further reading:

A slide presentation grouping some British Ballads by theme: <https://slideplayer.com/slide/14026380/> -

More resources:

Active Learning - Listening to music for younger learners: https://amplify.nmc.ca/pdf/Active_listening_Guide.pdf

Music listening questions for teenagers: https://teflpedia.com/Music_conversation_questions