**The Highwayman** - Harriet

One night, when the sky was as dark as a pupil in an eye, the highwayman rode along a strip of long winding road. He followed the moons light, until he reached a dark, gloomy inn. His horse’s hooves clattered and clotted on the cobblestone, blanketing the cold, plain floor.

The shutters and doors rattled in time with the whispering trees but no living thing breathed and no chubby, red faced landlord pocked there head out welcomingly. Then something stirred and a humming sounded.

The highwayman was not bothered by this as he thought it was just a bee jumping from flower to flower in the back yard.

But no it was his love, the landlord’s daughter, Bess. Her long black hair trailed out the window. The highwayman caught sight of it and grinned.

He jumped of his horse and skidded over to the window. Before he tugged on the hair to tell Bess he was there, he listened to the song she sang that night.

Meanwhile Bess was finding it hard to talk as she was being gagged by king Georges men! All she could say was,” Mmmmm, mmmmm.”

# **The night before**

“One kiss my bonny sweetheart, I’m after a prize tonight,” the highwayman shouted up to Bess, “But I shall be back before the morning light; yet if they press me sharply and harry me through the day, then look for me by moonlight, watch for me by moonlight, I’ll come to thee by moonlight, though hell should bar the way.”

No one heard him say this except Bess and the stable boy. He listened as this was said. He loved the landlord’s daughter, Bess, the landlord’s daughter, Bess, the lovely landlord’s daughter.

He stood up and jumped up onto his messy, thin horse and galloped into the darkness, the highwayman got consumed too. They both left Bess in the moonlight, watching for her riding love to come back.

## **Present day**

The highwayman knew what to do. He grabbed his reins and tugged them but then stopped right outside the gate. He clip clopped back to the window and chopped of a bit of her hair, then put it in his locket and wrapped it around his neck.

Then he rode off into the darkness and left Bess to die out there.

The last anyone ever heard him say was: “Goodbye my bonny sweetheart, goodbye my bonny sweetheart, I’ll find you my bonny sweetheart, I’ll keep looking for you until the day I die.”

He looked and looked and looked until 5th year ended and then under the biggest oak tree in the village he tied a rope to the highest branch and hung himself there in the moonlight and died in the darkness there!