Inference in The Highwayman

An activity PowerPoint about inference and the characters in The Highwayman.

LO: To infer thoughts, events and emotions in The Highwayman.

- To identify how character's descriptions can be used to infer how they are feeling.

- To identify the feelings and thoughts of the characters in The Highwayman.

Starter

In The Highwayman, Alfred Noyes gives the reader lots of information about how the characters feel about each other. However, he does not always tell us directly.

Sometimes Alfred Noyes relies on the reader to use **inference**.

Inference is where the reader has to work something out from evidence, rather than being told directly.

Starter

One of these quotes requires you to use inference to explain how a character feels - which one is it?

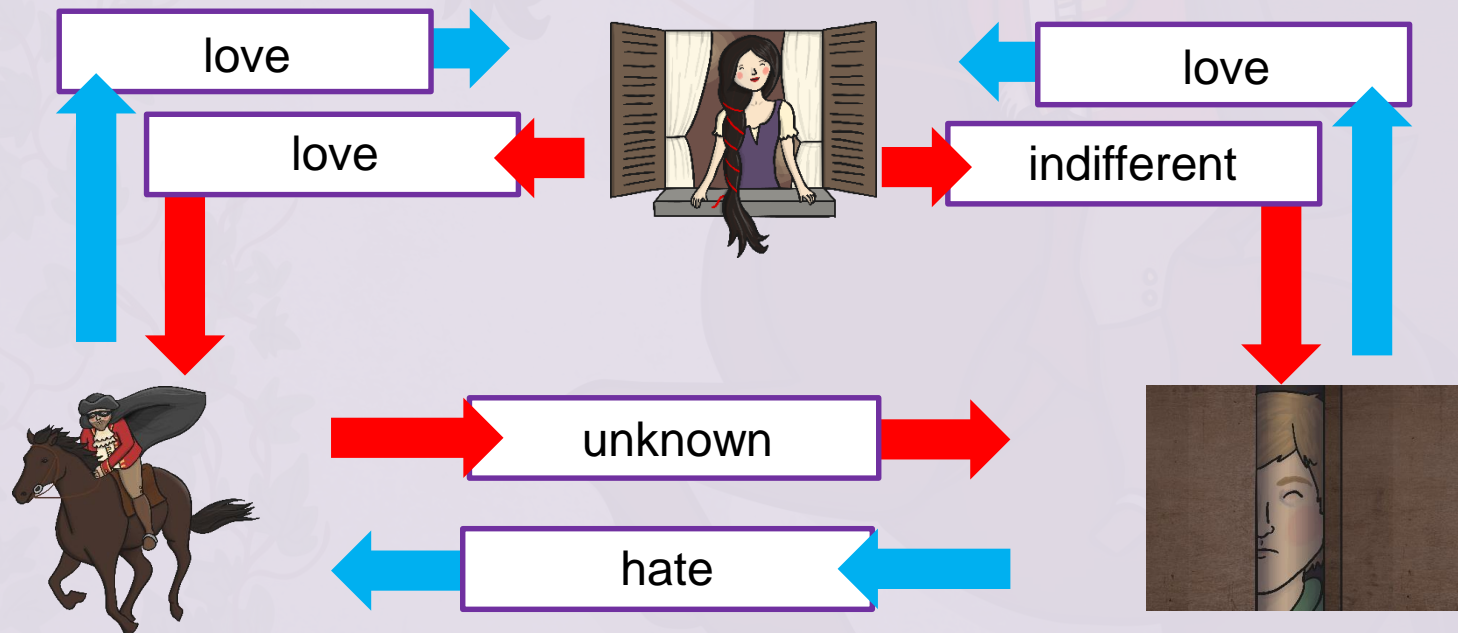"Bess, the landlord's daughter, plaiting a dark red love-knot into her long black hair."

or

"But he loved the landlord's daughter."

Discussion

Let's read the poem again and think about how the characters feel about each other and why.

After we've read the poem, we'll discuss how the characters feel about each other and fill in the boxes. Possible feelings are: love, hate, like, indifferent, unknown.

love

love

love

indifferent

unknown

hate

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Activity

Use the lines from the poem, together with what you know about the poem, to infer meaning.

For example:

Line from the poem	Inference
"The wind was a torrent of darkness"	It is night time and very windy. Maybe the word "darkness" means something bad. Therefore, maybe the highwayman is someone bad, riding into town with the wind.

Plenary

Choose one of these questions to discuss with a partner.

Would the answer change if you asked different characters from the poem?

- Who is 'the bad guy' in The Highwayman?

- Does the story have a happy ending?

- Did Bess do the right thing?

- Was Tim really responsible for the highwayman's death?

THE END