

# Ballad

structure: quatrains (four-line stanzas)

meter: lines 1 and 3 are iambic tetrameter  
lines 2 and 4 are iambic trimeter

rhyme: lines 1 and 3 usually rhyme  
lines 2 and 4 must rhyme

topic: narrative of adventure or intrigue;  
describes a dramatic or exciting  
episode; often focuses on tragedy

features:

- action focused on common (*not noble*) folk
- narrative devices (including plot, conflict, character development, and dialogue)
- incremental repetition typical
- supernatural may play key role
- often concludes with summary stanza
- originally recited or sung