

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
- supernatural plays key role
- incremental repetition common
- often concludes with summary stanza
- originally recited or sung