

LO: I am learning to apply the structure of The Highwayman to my own writing.

Look at the example verses. Can you see how the original pattern of the poem has been used but the events have changed? Look back at the poem from session 1 if you need to compare.

The tip of her finger touched it, she strove harder for the rest
She wriggled with desperation, the barrel slipped past her breast
It pointed past her body, straight at the window pane,
Where the road lay bare in the moonlight,
Blank and bare in the moonlight
And the blood of her veins in the moonlight, throbbed to her lover's refrain.

Clot-clot; clot-clot! Bess could hear him. The horse-hoofs ringing clear;
Bess squeezed the trigger firmly. The glass shattered very near.
The highwayman turned his horse quickly and fled.
The highwayman went riding,
Riding, riding!
And the men followed him shouting, leaving Bess tied to the bed.

She did not waste a moment; Bess wriggled out and took flight,
She went to the place in the forest, where they often met at night.
The highwayman was waiting, waiting for his true dear.
The couple escaped to freedom,
To freedom, freedom,
Together at last they could be, far away from fear.

Reread your plan from Day 1 and decide how many verses you will need to retell these events in the same style. Do not plan for more than three.

Start to write lines of the poem. Don't worry if some do not fit in with the rhythm or rhyme patterns. You will be able to redraft later. Concentrate on telling the end of the story today. When you have finished, reread your poetry lines. Check that you have included the important story events and used some authentic-sounding language.

Hint: You can base yours on most of the existing words but just alter some to create your new ending. Reread the example above to see how this has been done.