

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Period \_\_\_\_\_

Prompt instructions

## **“The Highwayman” by Alfred Noyes**

There are many different opinions on what makes a person a true hero or villain. We have stereotypical images in our culture of what a hero/villain should look like and how he or she should act. Some believe it is their thoughts that make them fit the role while others say it is actually their actions that matter most. After all, a person may have thoughts or ideas that most would consider wrong or “evil,” but if they do not act on them, it can’t really count. Sometimes it is even just pure luck or circumstance that makes one individual stand out among others as being heroic or special.

In the poem “The Highwayman” by Alfred Noyes, there are only three main characters: the Highwayman, Bess, and Tim. If we were to label one a hero based on his/her appearance and actions, how would we pick? What really makes them heroic?

### Writing Task

Respond to the following question:

Who is the true hero in the poem “The Highwayman” and why?

Be sure to:

- ✓ Choose one of the main characters : the Highwayman, Bess, or Tim.
- ✓ Provide three specific reasons why you chose this character as being heroic.
- ✓ Use evidence and examples from the poem to support your choice.