

## BALLADS: POPULAR POETRY

**Title of Selection:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Author:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ballad:** Song or songlike poem that tells a story.

**Ballad stanza:** A four-line stanza (quatrain) that has four stressed syllables in the first and third lines and three stressed syllables in the second and fourth lines. The rhyme scheme is usually *abcb*.

**Refrain:** A repeated word, phrase, line, or group of lines.

**Meter:** A regular pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables in poetry.

1. Supernatural events	
2. Sensational, sordid, or tragic subject matter	
3. Omission of detail such as description or characterization	
4. Incremental repetition of phrases or sentences	
5. Refrain	
6. Question-and-answer format	
7. Conventional phrases with specific symbolic or metaphoric meanings	
8. Rhythm (ballad stanza)	