

“Lochinvar”

A Narrative Poem

By

Sir Walter Scott

Essential Question # 1

What are the characteristics of a narrative poem?

A narrative poem has the same characteristics as a narrative essay, short story, or a work of fiction. The poem tells a story. Narrative poems usually include setting, characters, plot, conflict, and dialogue.

Essential Question # 2

How does dialogue contribute to a poem?

Dialogue, or conversation, moves the action of the poem forward by setting up the events to come and illustrating the interactions of the characters.

Sir Walter Scott

- Historical novelist and poet
- Born in 1771; died in 1832 at the age of 61
- Developed polio at age of two that left him lame
- “Lochinvar” was once memorized by every schoolchild in Britain and Ireland.



Narrative Poetry

- Years ago poems were recited and passed down from generation to generation by word of mouth.
- They were eventually written down .
- Can cover entire series of events from beginning to end.
- Most narrative poems focus on a few events
- Tells a story, but it is also a poem
- Uses the devices of poetry to tell a story:
 - repetition, rhythm, rhyme, , metaphor, alliteration, assonance, imagery, and poetic form
 - Combines the excitement of a tale with the delight of poetry

True Love

In this narrative, readers learn about the depth of true love and the risks people are willing to take for love.

What kind of risks do people take for the ones they love?

Would someone risk his life for love? Risk his fortune?
Risk his freedom?

If so, would you consider this risk to be courageous?

The Poem--Audio

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J3b4OwkJodA&feature=related>

SOAPS

- Title of Poem: “Lochinvar”
- Author & Facts Scottish novelist and poet
 - Poems often memorized in Scotland and England
- Subject: Nothing can stop true love
- Occasion: Personal reading experience; possibly based on a Scottish legend
- Audience: general audience; people in love
- Purpose: Share a story of true love; encourage people not to give up on true love
- Speaker: Unknown narrator

Analyzing the Poem

To analyze the poem, readers need to focus on the following information:

- Narrative elements
- Poetry elements
- Characterization
- Thematic Focus--Survival

Narrative Elements

As a narrative poem, this text contains the elements of a story. In your notes, create a plot chart and describe the following:

- **Exposition**~Major characters, setting, conflict
- **Rising Action**~At least three (3) events leading up to the climax
- **Climax**~The most important event in the story
- **Falling Action**~The events that follow the climax
- **Resolution**~How the conflict is resolved

Poetry Elements

Since “Lochinvar” is a poem, readers should examine it for the general elements of poetry.

IF the poem has any of these elements, cite examples in your notes and include the line number.

Rhyme	Repetition	Alliteration	Assonance
Metaphor	Simile	Imagery	Personification
Onomatopoeia	Consonance	Flashback	Foreshadowing

Characterization

“Lochinvar” is an interesting study in human relationships and power struggles between correct roles and duties.

Basically, the characters in the poem are divided into two groups:

1. Those who are active, who conform to the language of battle and conflict
2. Those who are passive and ineffective

In your notes, make a character list based on these groups.

Characterization

Character Types:

Dynamic character

Static character

Hero / Foil

Is Lochinvar a hero?

A hero is usually recognized in a work of literature as someone with great courage and strength (although that's not always the case). The hero may risk or sacrifice his or her life for the greater good.

Have you heard this quote before?

“O, what a tangled web we
weave, when first we practice
to deceive!?”

☞ “Marmion,
Canto VI, Stanza 17”

Survival and the Fight for Love

Lochinvar could have been killed for “stealing” Ellen away from her wedding.

Look at your survival handout. Complete the first section and provide a summary of the poem’s narrative.

Why do you think he risked his own life to be with her?