

The Highwayman



Should he be remembered as a hero or a villain?

The Highwayman is known to be one of the most notorious crooks ever to have walked the Earth. Many people believe he was a villain, however there are others who believe he should be remembered as a hero. It is a contentious argument that has sparked strong feelings from both sides. Some people argue that he is a considerate lover, who only desires the best for his beloved Bess, whereas others think that he is a callous, power-hungry man who strives to steal.

The Highwayman thought of stealing as a necessity as he needed to provide for his one true love, Bess. He abruptly stopped and attacked travellers on the highway and mainly targeted: stagecoaches, carriages and farmers on their way back from market. This villainous behaviour was murderously threatening and caused passers-by harm. Although he brutally injured innocent people, he purposefully stole to support himself and Bess. Due to this, some may say he heroically stole from the rich to give to the poor.

Additionally, the Highwayman had a pure, loving nature. He attentively cared for Bess, rescued her from a life of poverty and selflessly risked his own life to steal valuable belongings. However, some may say due to his skilful ability to steal he became greedy and stole more than was necessary proving him to be a criminal.

On the other hand, he was portrayed as a heroic, gallant gentleman who bravely flees towards the dangerous crimson-coated men. When he hears that Bess is in trouble, he daringly gallops towards the inn to rescue her. In comparison, others may say he deserves to be captured and imprisoned for his wrongdoings and careless nature.

In conclusion, as you can see, there are strong arguments for both viewpoints and therefore no one can deny that the Highwayman is indeed a divisive character with traits of a hero and a villain.