**Ballad**

Ballad is a poem or song that narrates a story in rhyming stanzas. Traditionally ballads are passed from one generation to the other and author is unknown. The word ballad is derived from a French word “Ballade” meaning “dance song”. We can also say that ballad are folksongs that tells stories. They tell all kinds of stories, including histories, legends, fairy tales, animal fables etc.

The oldest narrative songs were epics, poems about historical events and legends. Ballads are meant to be sung and remembered so usually the language is simple and repetitive in nature.

**Characteristics of Ballad**

1. The author is usually unknown.
2. Passed from one generation to other.
3. Usually dramatic in nature.
4. Ballads are usually rhyming in nature so that it can be easily memorised.
5. Repetitive in nature.
6. Language of Ballad is simple.
7. They may have multiple character.
8. Usually third person narrative.