Stanza 1

metaphor = a comparison between two things using "was" or "is"
• "the wind was a torent of darkness"
• "the moon was a ghostly galleon"
• "the road was a ribbon of moonlight"

repetition = repeating sounds in order to create a sound effect
• "riding- riding - riding"
Stanza 1

Alliteration = the repetition of beginning sounds of words

- "ghostly galleon"
- "road was a ribbon"
- "riding - riding - riding"

Setting:
- darkness, gusty wind, trees, moonlight, purple moor, inn door

Character:
- the highwayman
Stanza 2
Character description:
• "French cocked-hat" = France was the capital of fashion, means he's wealthy and fashionable
• "lace at his chin" = more lace, more wealth and high ranking in society
• "coat of the claret velvet" = alliteration; claret = wine colored; dark colors were more expensive because it required more work to produce
• "breeches of brown doeskin" = alliteration; doeskin would be expensive
Stanza 2

• "fitted with never a wrinkle" = custom-made; expensive

• "boots to the thigh" = expensive; wealth

• "and he rode with a jeweled twinkle,/His pistol butts a-twinkle," = handle of the pistol was jeweled - wealthy - with diamonds, emeralds; the jewels are twinkling

• "His rapier hilt a-twinkle, under the jeweled sky" = hilt of the sword is jeweled - expensive; sky is "jeweled" with stars
Stanza 3

• "cobbles he clattered and clashed" = alliteration
  onomatopoeia = words that sound like what they describe
• "tapped with his whip" & "locked and barred" = it's nighttime; everything is locked up, the highwayman is trying to be secret
• "whistled a tune to the window" = getting Bess's attention
• "landlord's daughter" = example of repetition
• "red love knot" = color red symbolic of love; blood; death
Stanza 3

Character:
Bess = landlord's daughter; the highwayman and she love each other

“whistled...window...who...waiting” = alliteration
Stanza 4

• "dark in the dark old innyard" = two darks - one is the darkness of the yard infront of the inn; the other darkness - night? Tim?

• "stable wicket" = gate to a stable

• Tim's "white and peaked" = white could be pale, afraid, sickly; peaked means sickly or weak

• "his eyes were hollows of madness" - metaphor; he's mad for Bess or about Bess loving the Highwayman or just plain crazy

• "his hair like moldy hay" = simile
Stanza 4

• "he loved the landlord's daughter" = he loves Bess
• "Dumb as a dog he listened, and he heard the robber say" - simile
  “dumb as a dog” refers to his place in society - as low as a dog; could also mean that he isn't too smart (again possibly because he's uneducated), he thinks of the Highwayman as a robber (negative connotation), he’s a dog because other’s treat him that way; he’s waiting
• "he heard the robber say" = Tim was eavesdropping
Stanza 5

• "My bonny sweetheart" = "bonny" means pretty for Scottish, which seems to indicate that the highwayman's possibly Scottish
• "prize" = symbolic of 1) money, 2) gold, 3) Bess
• "back with the yellow gold" = symbolic of money OR a ring (marriage)
• "harry me through the day" = bother or distract the highwayman from his mission
• "moonlight" = their signal when he will arrive; repeated three times
• "moonlight" & "hell" = first time they are mentioned; second time the meaning changes
Stanza 6

• “loosened her hair in the casement” = let her hair fall out of the window
• “his face burnt like a brand” = simile; where her hair touched his face, it marked him as belonging to her
• “moonlight” = repetition
• “west” = setting sun, the end of day, (symbolically) death
Stanza 7 – Part Two

• “dawning...noon...sunset...before the rise of the moon” = marks a passage of time
• “he did not come” = repetition
• “road was a gypsy’s ribbon” = metaphor
• Redcoats = British soldiers; would have been charged with imprisoning highwaymen
• “marching-marching-marching” = repetition; “mar” sound is harsh – symbolic of the harshness of these soldiers
Stanza 8

• “no word to the landlord” – ignored the innkeeper; ignored middle class?
• “drank his ale” = could be drunk?
• “gagged...bound” = handkerchief in mouth, hands tied
• “death at every window” = soldiers at every window
• “hell at one dark window” = the window where Bess could see the Highwayman and he could see her
• Second time “hell” is used – highwayman foreshadowed this when he said “hell should bar the way”
Stanza 9

• “tied her up to attention” = stood her up
• “sniggering jest” = sly joke – in this case cruel
• “muzzle beneath her breast” = rifle pointed at her heart; kill shot
• “’keep good watch’” – cruel and ironic because that’s the only thing she can do
• “they kissed her” = mocking – using something good like a “kiss” in a horrible way; “kiss” of death
• “doomed man” = not looking good, the highwayman
Stanza 9

• “moonlight” = repetition; the first time this is used is to describe the setting; the next time it’s to describe when Bess should see her love come for her; now the “moonlight” will mark the death of the highwayman

• Last three lines – are the highwayman’s original words coming back to haunt Bess
Stanza 10
• She tries to get out of her bindings
• “writhed” = twisted, usually in a painful way
• “blood” = tried to get out until her hands bleed; foreshadowing the highwayman’s blood
• “stretched and strained” = alliteration
• “the hours crawled” = personification
• “hours crawled like years” = simile
• “midnight” = repetition
• “tip...touched it! The trigger” = alliteration
Stanza 11

• Bess can reach the trigger with her finger
• “she would not risk their hearing” = she doesn’t want to alert the soldiers to her plans
• “she would not strive again” = she’s made up her mind
• “road lay bare in the moonlight” = highwayman hasn’t arrived yet; bare like her life is the highwayman is killed
• “bare...blank and bare...blood” = alliteration
• “moonlight” = repetition; it will now mark her decision to kill herself
Stanza 11

• “blood of her veins...throbbed to her love’s refrain” = her blood is pounding like the horses hooves that she will hear when the highwayman approaches
Stanza 12

• “Tlot-tlot” = onomatopoeia; horse’s hooves
• “down the ribbon of moonlight” = repetition
• “over the brow of the hill” = personification
• “riding-riding-riding” = repetition; and now marks danger for the highwayman
• “priming” = redcoats readied their guns
• “she stood...straight...still” = alliteration
Stanza 13

• “nearer he came and nearer” = repetition; writing reflects what the highwayman is doing
• “her face was like a light” = metaphor; her face was pale/scared, Heaven’s light, light like a signal/warning, light to lead the way
• “eye grew wide” = fear; resignation
• “drew one last deep breath” = no turning back
• “moonlight” = repetition; marks her death; she shoots herself trying to warn him
Stanza 14

• “he turned” = at the sound of her shot
• “he spurred to the west” = symbolically his death or end
• “not till the dawn he heard it” = didn’t know until morning light that it was Bess who the shot belonged to
• He realizes Bess has died for him
Stanza 15

• “he spurred like a madman” = simile; he is reacting in heated rage
• “shouting a curse to the sky” = revenge
• “white road smoking behind him” = the dust is flying up from the speed of his horse
• “rapier brandished high” = high in the air and ready to attack
• “blood-red were his spurs in the golden noon” = urging to horse pass all reason; foreshadowing
Stanza 15

• “wine-red was his velvet coat” = symbolism
• “shot him down on the highway” = repetition
• “down like a dog on the highway” = simile; he’s now as low as Tim, in society (you can’t be lower than dead)
• “lay in his blood on the highway” = red-coloring foreshadowing his death is realized
• “bunch of lace at his throat” = soldiers and Tim have taken everything from his: Bess, his wealth, his status, and lastly his life.
Stanza 16 -17

• Italics – mark that we are supposed to notice that this is different somehow (repetition of the first two stanzas)

• None of the wording has changed

• The italics indicate that the story has changed: now we are in the present time, hearing the story in an inn, and the “taps...on the shutters” and “whistles a tune” is the ghost of the highwayman coming once again to see Bess