

GEORDIE

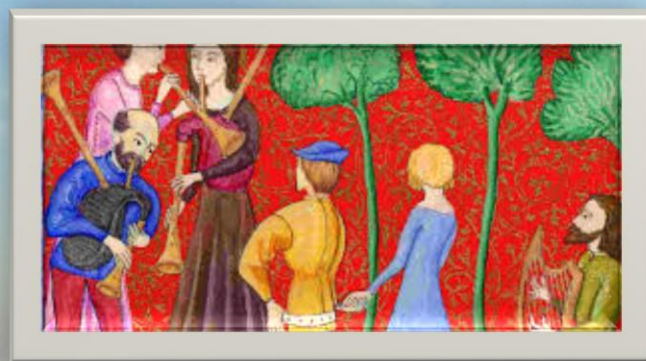


Play



What is it?

- “Geordie” is an anonymous ballad dated to the Middle Ages.
- Just considering the title, I expect the poem to be about a young man and something he has done.



Structure

- The layout shows a text divided into 7 quatrains (stanzas of 4 lines each), an alternation of narration and dialogue and a refrain.



Narrators



- The first speaking voice that is introduced to the reader is an **unknown person** who is walking over the London Bridge one early morning when he/she overhears a maid lamenting for her man, “Geordie”.
- The **maid** is the **second speaking voice** from stanza number 2 until the very end of the piece of writing.



The Story



- Geordie is a traditional ballad concerning the trial of a young man, who has stolen 16 **deers** from the King's land. It is a serious crime that will lead him to the death penalty, notwithstanding his wife's **pleads** for his life.
- The main character is a young woman who is riding on her pony with her children to London's Court of Justice where her lover, Geordie, is being tried for **poaching**. But it is too late: Geordie has already been sentenced.



Rhyme scheme

- The rhyme scheme used is a ABCB scheme, and the tone used when the lady talks is malinconic and desperate.
- The use of the expressions “O” by the second narrator makes the reader feel a **sense of sorrow** and **distress** for the maid and Geordie because of their relationship broken by this trial.
- The repetition of stanzas 2, 4 and 7 emphasize the speaking voice’s pain while talking to herself, almost even praying to God to have her and Geordie’s back on this situation.



Upper class trial

- The ballad is characterized by a lot of expressions related to God and Royalty, such as “milk white steed” in line 9, “my pony” in line 10 or even the fact that Geordie will be hanged using “a golden chain” in line 5, which is something not everyone could afford.



- *As I came over London Bridge* a
- *One misty morning early,* b
- *I overheard a fair pretty maid* c
- *Lamenting for her Geordie.* b

- *“Come bridle me my milk-white horse,* a
- *Come bridle me my pony* b
- *That I may ride to London's court* c
- *To plead for the life of Geordie.”* b

- *And when she entered in the hall,* a
- *There was lords and ladies plenty.* b
- *Down on her bended knees she did fall,* a
- *To plead for the life of Geordie.”* b

- *Oh, Geordie stole no cow nor calf,* a
- *Nor sheep he never stole any,* b
- *But he stole sixteen of the King's wild deer* c
- *And sold them in Bohemy.* b

- *“Oh, two brave children I've had by him,* a
- *And the third lies in my bosom;* b
- *I'd freely part with them every one,* c
- *If you would spare me the life of Geordie.”* d



- *The judge looked over his left shoulder,* a
- *And said "I'm sorry for thee,* b
- *My pretty fair maid, you have come too late,* c
- *For he's condemned already."* b

- *Let Geordie hang in golden chain* a
- *Such chain as never was any,* b
- *Because he came of the royal blood,* c
- *And courted a virtuous lady.* d

- *"I wish I was down in yonder grove,* a
- *Where times I have been many,* b
- *With my broad sword and my pistol too,* c
- *I'd fight for the life of Geordie."* b





THE END

Play

