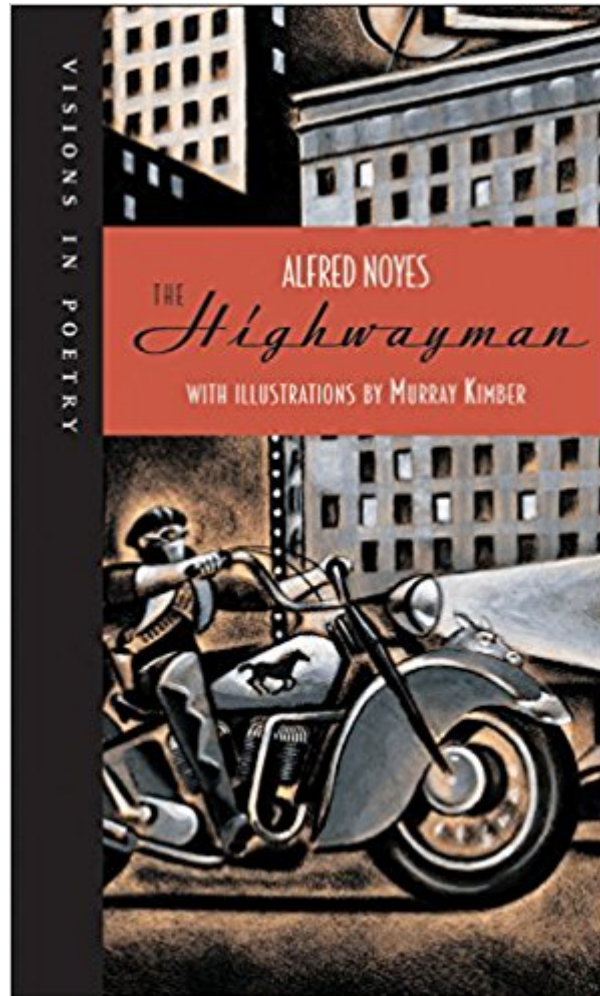




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The Highwayman (Visions In Poetry)



Synopsis

The Highwayman is the second book in a unique series --- Visions in Poetry --- featuring classic poems illustrated by outstanding contemporary artists. Originally published in 1907, "The Highwayman" is a haunting ballad of doomed love. Seldom have mood and character been so memorably evoked. The pounding rhythm of the rhyme, the dramatic pacing and the power of the imagery have made it one of the most popular read-alouds of all time. Murray Kimber's stunning noir interpretation is a darkly brilliant achievement that stays true to the poem's tragic spirit.

Book Information

Series: Visions in Poetry

Hardcover: 48 pages

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Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.2 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Grade 6 Up
Murray Kimber's robber villain rides a mean motorcycle through the streets of New York City in this Art Deco rendering of Noyes's familiar poem of romantic tragedy. The vigorous, somewhat angular charcoal drawings in this modest, narrow volume richly convey the city night. Often they contradict the descriptive passages of text. For The moon was a ghostly galleon/tossed upon cloudy seas./The road was a ribbon of moonlight/over the purple moor, the artist infuses his dark illustrations of city streets with shades of tan and mauve, but the red tones so prevalent in the poem appear infrequently. The skyscrapers and automobiles are far removed from Noyes's rustic setting with the old inn-door and the gypsy's ribbon road. King George's men are now machine-gun-toting tough guys, whose strong-arm tactics in tying up Bess have a kind of familiarity in evoking scenes from gangster comics and movies. Some readers will find the mismatched imagery confusing, and others are likely to be amused at the modernized interpretation. The strong rhythms and imagery and the dark tone and violence of this poetic story should continue to have

wide adolescent appeal. — Margaret Bush, Simmons College, Boston Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Gr. 7-10. The debut volume in the elegantly packaged Visions in Poetry series, a dark treatment of Lewis Carroll's "The Jabberwocky," illustrated by Stephane Joris, earned the 2004 Canadian Governor General's Award for Illustration. This second volume likewise offers an unusual interpretation of a curriculum chestnut. Painting in an art deco style and film noir palette, Kimber casts a motorcycle-riding rebel as the highwayman; a curvaceous glamour girl as Bess; and tommy-gun toting cops as the soldiers who intrude upon the lovers' tryst. Although it may be hard for some readers to reconcile the sleek, urban imagery with the "tlot-tlot" of horses' hooves, the dramatic artwork plays up the elements teens will find most rewarding--particularly the protagonists' defiance of authority and the unblushingly melodramatic conclusion. Noyes' words and many of Kimber's illustrations candidly portray violence (a rope-bound Bess struggles to free herself, hands "wet with sweat or blood"), so reserve this for middle- and high-school readers, who may enjoy comparing the recasting with the Kate Greenaway Medal-winning version by Charles Keeping (1983). Jennifer Mattson Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

My kids had to memorize this poem this fall. One of them went so far as to draw his own illustrations for the poem, most of which ended up adorable... oops, tough and manly. I'm going to save them for him. This book makes the poem tough and manly, too, bringing it into the gangster-movie genre. It's a really great, fun, city look for the poem. Very powerful.

This illustrated version of the classic poem, will help today's younger students appreciate Alfred Noyes' work. This is done by the modernization of the tale by the brilliant art deco illustrations by Canadian artist, Murray Kimber. In this book, Highwayman trades his horse for a motorcycle. It fits. The story of love, robbery, betrayal and death still ring true even though this poem was first published in 1907. I highly recommend it to educators and poetry lovers everywhere. "The Highwayman", ISBN 978-1-55337-425-1, Kids Can Press, 2009.

My middle school kids love this! After reading the original, I show this one on the white board using the document camera. It is awesome!

This version of The Highwayman poem is just what students need to get more out of the original

poem. With the beautiful illustrations, this one is hard to resist!

The illustrations manage to revive this tale as a 40's/50's, gangster style story about the lone rider who falls in love then falls victim to the violence of the seedy underworld. My students loved it, thought it was tough and edgy, something they could understand and sink their teeth into. It really does help bring a classic into the classroom in an interesting and exciting light that captures the attention of teens and gets them talking.

I imagined that the illustrations would somehow cleverly transport the poem into the present. Alas, no such luck. Seems as though the illustrator just drew a lot of motorcycle pictures with little thought as to how to connect them with the story line. Maybe the time and setting ought not be fooled with in the first place.

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