

## Introduction to Poetry: Second Creative Assignment

### The Ballad

*Due Tuesday, December 6, by the start of class, by email as a Microsoft Word attachment.*

The task for this assignment is to construct a ballad. For a poem to count as a ballad, it must have a regular rhyme scheme, regular stanzas, and a metrical structure. While the typical ballad uses iambic tetrameter and has quatrains that rhyme ABCB, you are free to choose your own rhyme scheme and meter, so long as you are consistent. Some ballads feature refrains, and you are also welcome to use refrains.

A ballad is a poem that tells a story—a narrative poem. Ballads are often supernatural and moral in nature, but they don't have to be. Your ballad should tell the story of your choosing.

There is no length requirement, but *less than five stanzas will probably not be adequate* to the task.

metric he myght mesure in alle maistreyes, for by mesure  
was the world made, and alle thinges bye, lorde & wep,



There foloweth  
both of musyque,  
capitulum

The first  
of the sciences  
is called  
musyque,  
the which

fourmeth hym of Arismetryque, Of this science of musyque  
cometh alle attemperance, And of this arte pro-

An early illustration of Ballad Singers, from *Mirror of the World*, printed by W. Caxton, Westminster, 1481