

Vocabulary for *The Highwayman* by Alfred Noyes

1. **torrent** a violently fast stream of water or other liquid

The wind was a **torrent** of darkness upon the gusty trees

2. **galleon** a large square-rigged sailing ship with three or more masts

The moon was a ghostly **galleon** tossed upon cloudy seas

3. **moor** open fields of grass and somewhat boggy or swampy

The road was a ribbon of moonlight over the purple **moor**.

4. **highwayman** a robber who stole from people; rode a horse

And the **highwayman** came riding, up to the old inn-door.

5. **claret** a dark purplish-red color

A coat of the **claret** velvet, and breeches of fine doe-skin

6. **rapier** a straight sword with a narrow blade and two edges

His **rapier** hilt a-twinkle, under the jeweled sky

7. **plait** make by braiding or interlacing

He whistled a tune to the window, and who should be waiting there
But the landlord's black-eyed daughter,
Bess, the landlord's daughter,
Plaiting a dark red love-knot into her long black hair.

8. **wicket** small gate or door

And dark in the dark old inn-yard a stable- **wicket** creaked

9. **ostler** someone employed in a stable to take care of the horses

Where Tim the **ostler** listened. His face was white and peaked.

10. **harry** annoy continually or chronically

Yet if they press me sharply, and **harry** me through the day,
Then look for me by moonlight

11. **casement** a window sash that is hinged (usually on one side)

But she loosened her hair in the **casement**

12. **jest** a humorous anecdote or remark intended to provoke laughter

They had tied her up to attention, with many a sniggering **jest**

13. **strain** to exert much effort or energy

They stretched and **strained** in the darkness, and the hours crawled by like years

14. **muzzle** the open circular discharging end of a gun

Up, she stood up to attention, with the **muzzle** beneath her breast.

15. **prime** insert an igniter to initiate the burning of a propellant

The red-coats looked to their **priming**!

16. **musket** a muzzle-loading shoulder gun with a long barrel

Her **musket** shattered the moonlight

17. **brandish** exhibit aggressively

Back, he spurred like a madman, shouting a curse to the sky,
With the white road smoking behind him and his rapier **brandished** high.