

# The Ballad

- A ballad is a song that tells a story
- It is a form of narrative poetry
- It was originally written to accompany dance
- Origin: Late Middle Ages
- General Rhyme Scheme: abcb

# Characteristics



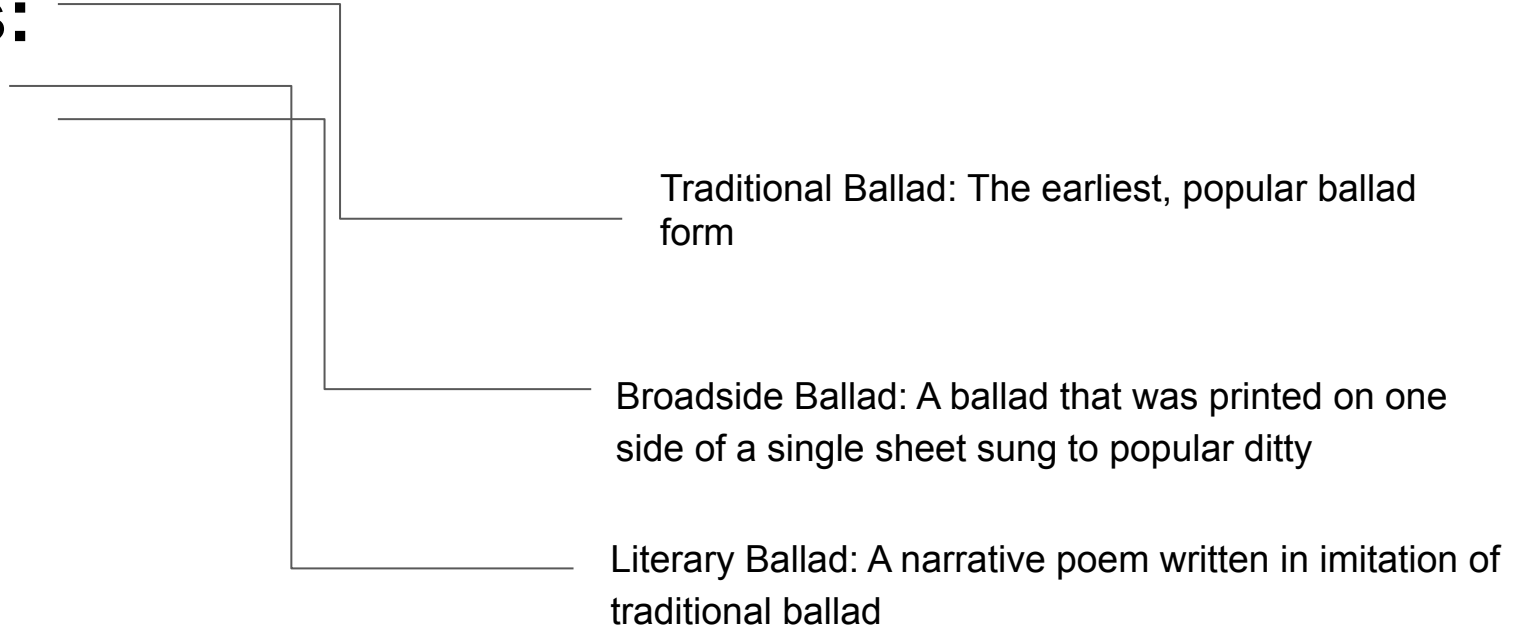
## **Ballad Singer:**

- Is dramatic
- Is impersonal; makes no personal reference
- Uses action and dialogue

## **Ballad:**

- Has stock phrases
- Has a refrain
- Has incremental repetition

# Kinds:



# Examples:

*Reliques of Ancient English Poetry* by Thomas Percy

*Rime of the Ancient Mariner* by S T Coleridge

*Proud Maisie* by Walter Scott

*La Belle Dame sans Merci* by John Keats

# La Belle Dame sans Merci

