

Lesson 193 • The Black Velvet Band

Name _____

Identifying the Target Audience and Purpose of a Text

To identify the author's purpose in writing a text, it helps to work out who the text was written for. For example, texts that contain dialogue and lots of descriptive words might be telling a story. This suggests that the author is targeting a general audience. The language the author uses will show what his or her purpose is—to inform, persuade, instruct, or entertain.

Read the passage.

Circle the word that is similar in meaning to *walking*.

Highlight the old-fashioned word for a young woman.

Colour the lines that show why the narrator was put in prison.

As I went strolling one evening,
Not meaning to go very far,
I spied a pretty young damsel,
Parading her wares at an inn,
A watch she took from a customer,
And she slipped it right in my hand,
And the law came and put me in prison,
Bad luck to her black velvet band.

Chorus

Her eyes shone like the diamonds,
You'd think she was Queen of the land,
And her hair hung over her shoulder,
Tied up with a black velvet band.

Put a box around the words that rhyme with *band*.

Circle the word that shows which part of the text is meant to be repeated after each verse.

Underline an example of a simile.

Colour the correct answers

- What type of text is this? Choose the best answer.
 a narrative a song a poem a report
- Which word is the **clue** to question 1's answer?
 damsel Queen Chorus band
- Who is the intended **audience** for this text?
 the general public musicians innkeepers lawyers
- What gives the text its musical quality?
 the vivid imagery the repetition of words
 the mournful tone the rhyme and rhythm
- What is the main **purpose** of the text?
 to persuade to entertain to inform to warn

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Read the passage.

Next morning before judge and jury,
 For trial I had to appear,
 And the judge said "Me fine young fellow
 The case against you is quite clear,
 For seven long years is your sentence,
 You're going to Van Diemen's Land,
 Away from your friends and relations,
 To follow the black velvet band."

Chorus

Her eyes shone like the diamonds,
 You'd think she was Queen of the land,
 And her hair hung over her shoulder,
 Tied up with a black velvet band.

In line 1, highlight an example of alliteration.

Underline the sentence the judge handed down to the narrator.

Colour the line that indicates that the judge had no doubt that the narrator was guilty.

Put a box around the words that rhyme in lines 2 and 4.

1 What are the most likely reasons someone wrote this song? _____

2 Rewrite the song as a narrative. Include information from both passages in your story.

