**The Wife Of Usher's Well**

The object of the present work is to analyse the ballad “The Wife of Usher's Well”. In particular I will start giving some information about the plot of the story, and then I will analyse the single stanzas of the ballad.

The ballad tells the story of a woman, in particular a wife who is known to the reader by her nationality,

her social status and her family, in particular her three children, who one day leave the mother to go over the sea but, unfortunately, ​​ they die. At this point the mother is desperate and the poet reports his lament through the expression "I wish the wind may never cease, Nor fashes in the flood, Till my three sons come home to me, In earthly flesh and blood."…”

However, one day the children come back, not in flesh and blood but as ghosts and the mother prepares to welcome them in the sweetest way possible. Unfortunately, they only stay some instants before going back.

Because of the presence of ghosts it’s clear that “The wife of Usher’s well” is a supernatural ballad.

The first stanza of the ballad presents the alliteration of sound “W” which makes the lines more memorable and therefore it can be easily transmitted orally.

Another alliteration of sound “s” in the fourth line has the same function of the previous one.

The second stanza is repeated twice in the economy of the ballad to underline its importance: it is full of alliterations of sounds “w”, “p”, “s” and it is important because it talks about the time when the wife finds out that the children are dead, and her desperate reaction begins.

The wife’s reaction is connoted by a continuous reference to natural elements such as the wind and the flood. In addition, when the children come back home their hat is characterized by the presence of birch which means purification and the removal of evil.

When the children leave the mother, they repeated three times the expression “Fare ye weel” thus highlighting the end of the ballad.