**BONNY BARBARA ALLEN**

Reading the title the intelligent reader should focus his or her attention on the word “Bonny”. This word give to the intelligent reader the piece of information that Barbara Allen, probably the subject of the poem is a pretty woman. He or she could also imagine that this poem is about love.

The poem is organized in 8 stanzas, which are made up of 4 line for each one. The intelligent reader could recognized that this poem is a ballad, for the structure, the rhythm, the repetitions, the common language, the alliterations, for example the letter “B” in the title and the mix between dialogue and the narration, typical in ballads.

After reading the text the reader could understand that the text tells about a tragic love story between Sir John Graeme, who loved Barbara, but she didn’t reciprocate. The poet wants the aristocracy to ridicule, because a member of its dies for a working-class’ one.

The first stanza hasn’t a rhyme scheme and the poet tells the reader the settings of the story and the main characters. In fact the intelligent reader understands when and where the story take place: on the Martinmas’ day, in the West country and that Sir John Graeme fell in love with Barbara Allen. Reading the second line the intelligent reader understands that this story is a tragic story for the words “the green leaves a falling”. This gives to the reader a sense of sadness, negativity.

The second stanza is connected to the first by phonical parallelism of second and fifth lines. There is a mixes of narration and dialogue. The poet writes that John sent his men to bring to him Barbara and when a man saw her exhorts the woman to follow him. By the words of the man the intelligent reader could understand that there are a different social status between Barbara and John.

In the third stanza the intelligent reader immediately sees that Barbara isn’t interested going to John, because the description of Barbara’s movements: “hooly, hooly rose she up” contrasts to the words pronounced by John’s man in the second stanza. “o haste ...”. In this stanza there is a repetition of the word “hooly”. In this quatrain the poet tell the reader that Barbara goes John’s and she says to him that she thinks he would die. The intelligent reader reading the lines understands that the story will have a tragic end.

In the fourth stanza there are all dialogues, there aren’t narrated parts: John tells Barbara he is sick for her and she answered that she does not care about him. In this quatrains there are some repetitions of the words “very”, “sick” and anaphora of “O”. The poet in this quatrains remarks that the poem will have a tragic end. Furthermore the poet underlines again that Barbara isn’t interested to John at line 15.

In the fifth stanza talks only Barbara who remembers john that he made her angry. The poet shows all Barbara’s grudge against John, she may be exaggerated, because John is going to die.

In the sixth quatrain the poet describes John’s death and he said to his friends who are near him to be kind with Barbara Allen. In this four lines there is a repetition of the word “and”. The intelligent reader should understand that this quatrain is the saddest stanza.

In the seventh stanza the poet says that Barbara leaves John who was died and goes away. In the quatrain there is an anaphora of the words “and slowly slowly”. In this stanza the poet highlights Barbara Allen’s remorse for what she had said to John.

In the last quatrain while Barbara is going home she hears the dead-bell ringing for John’s death and she feels pain. The poet in this quatrain remarks in the reader’s mind that John is dead.