Directions: Answer the questions using the content from the poem. (Use the hints in parentheses to assist with the correct answer)

1. Who is the author? Who is the speaker?

2. What kind of poem is it?

3. How is the poem formed?
   Stanzas:
   Lines per stanza:
   Rhyme scheme(s):

4. To whom can the Highwayman and his actions be compared?

5. To whom can the Highwayman and Bess (star-crossed lovers) be compared?

6. “Dumb as a dog he listened” is an example of… (figurative language, sound device)

7. The last lines of each stanza have the beat of horses’ hooves. What is this an example of? (sound device)

8. The first stanza is repeated again at the end of the poem. What is this called? (sound device)

9. “The road was a ribbon of moonlight…” is an example of… (figurative language, sound device)

10. How did King George know the Highwayman’s intentions and plan?
“The Highwayman”

Poetry Analysis

11. “There was death at every window; And hell at one dark window” represents the soldiers guarding each window intending on killing the Highwayman and the one window where Bess will see him riding. What is this an example of?

(Ans: figurative language)

12. What is “Tlot-Tlot” an example of? (sound device)

(Ans: sound device)

13. What is “Her face was like a light” an example of? (figurative language)

(Ans: figurative language)

14. What is “Over the cobbles he clatters and clangs…” an example of? (two sound devices)

(Ans: two sound devices)

15. What is “…the road smoking behind him” an example of? (figurative language)

(Ans: figurative language)

16. What color is claret?

(Ans: claret)

17. What is a word to best represent Tim’s feelings toward Bess and the Highwayman?

(Ans: a word to best represent Tim’s feelings toward Bess and the Highwayman)

18. What is a word to best represent Bess’s actions?

(Ans: a word to best represent Bess’s actions)

19. What is “… And the hours crawled by like years…” an example of? (two types of figurative language)

(Ans: two types of figurative language)

20. What is “…and his face grew gray to hear…” an example of? (Two: figurative language/sound device)

(Ans: Two: figurative language/sound device)
“The Highwayman”  
by Alfred Noyes

Part One
I
The wind was a torrent of darkness among the gusty trees,
The moon was a ghostly galleon tossed upon cloudy seas,
The road was a ribbon of moonlight, over the purple moor,
And the highwayman came riding—
    Riding-riding—
The highwayman came riding, up to the old inn-door.

II
He'd a French cocked-hat on his forehead, a bunch of lace at his chin,
A coat of the claret velvet, and breeches of brown doe-skin;
They fitted with never a wrinkle: his boots were up to the thigh!
And he rode with a jewelled twinkle,
    His pistol butts a-twinkle,
    His rapier hilt a-twinkle, under the jewelled sky.

III
Over the cobbles he clattered and clashed in the dark inn-yard,
And he tapped with his whip on the shutters, but all was locked and barred;
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.

IV
And dark in the old inn-yard a stable-wicket creaked
Where Tim the ostler listened; his face was white and peaked;
His eyes were hollows of madness, his hair like mouldy hay,
But he loved the landlord's daughter,
    The landlord's red-lipped daughter,
Dumb as a dog he listened, and he heard the robber say—

V
"One kiss, my bonny sweetheart, I'm after a prize to-night,
But I shall be back with the yellow gold before the morning light;
Yet, if they press me sharply, and harry me through the day,
Then look for me by moonlight,
Watch for me by moonlight,
I'll come to thee by moonlight, though hell should bar the way."

VI
He rose upright in the stirrups; he scarce could reach her hand,
But she loosened her hair i' the casement! His face burnt like a brand
As the black cascade of perfume came tumbling over his breast;
And he kissed its waves in the moonlight,
    (Oh, sweet black waves in the moonlight!)
Then he tugged at his rein in the moonlight, and galloped away to the West.
“The Highwayman”

Part Two

I
He did not come in the dawning; he did not come at noon;
And out o’ the tawny sunset, before the rise o’ the moon,
When the road was a gipsy’s ribbon, looping the purple moor,
A red-coat troop came marching-
    Marching-marching-
King George’s men came marching, up to the old inn-door.

II
They said no word to the landlord, they drank his ale instead,
But they gagged his daughter and bound her to the foot of her narrow bed;
Two of them knelt at her casement, with muskets at their side!
There was death at every window;
    And hell at one dark window;
For Bess could see, through the casement, the road that he would ride.

III
They had tied her up to attention, with many a sniggering jest;
They bound a musket beside her, with the barrel beneath her breast!
"Now keep good watch!” and they kissed her.
She heard the dead man say-

    Look for me by moonlight;
    Watch for me by moonlight;
    I’ll come to thee by moonlight, though hell should bar the way!

IV
She twisted her hands behind her; but all the knots held good!
She writhed her hands till her fingers were wet with sweat or blood!
They stretched and strained in the darkness, and the hours crawled by like years,
Till, now, on the stroke of midnight,
    Cold, on the stroke of midnight,
The tip of one finger touched it! The trigger at least was hers!

V
The tip of one finger touched it; she strove no more for the rest!
Up, she stood up to attention, with the barrel beneath her breast,
She would not risk their hearing; she would not strive again;
For the road lay bare in the moonlight;
    Blank and bare in the moonlight;
And the blood of her veins in the moonlight throbbed to her love’s refrain.

VI

    Tlot-tlot; tlot-tlot! Had they heard it? The horse-hoofs ringing clear;
    Tlot-tlot, tlot-tlot, in the distance? Were they deaf that they did not hear?
Down the ribbon of moonlight, over the brow of the hill,
The highwayman came riding,
    Riding, riding!
The red-coats looked to their priming! She stood up strait and still!
“The Highwayman”

VII
*Tlot-tlot,* in the frosty silence! *Tlot-tlot,* in the echoing night!
Nearer he came and nearer! Her face was like a light!
Her eyes grew wide for a moment; she drew one last deep breath,
Then her finger moved in the moonlight,
    Her musket shattered the moonlight,
Shattered her breast in the moonlight and warned him—with her death.

VIII
He turned; he spurred to the West; he did not know who stood
Bowed, with her head o'er the musket, drenched with her own red blood!
Not till the dawn he heard it, his face grew grey to hear
How Bess, the landlord's daughter,
    The landlord's black-eyed daughter,
Had watched for her love in the moonlight, and died in the darkness there.

IX
Back, he spurred like a madman, shrieking a curse to the sky,
With the white road smoking behind him and his rapier brandished high!
Blood-red were his spurs i' the golden noon; wine-red was his velvet coat,
When they shot him down on the highway,
    Down like a dog on the highway,
And he lay in his blood on the highway, with a bunch of lace at his throat.

X
*And still of a winter's night,* they say, *when the wind is in the trees,*
*When the moon is a ghostly galleon tossed upon cloudy seas,*
*When the road is a ribbon of moonlight over the purple moor,*
*A highwayman comes riding—*
    *Riding-riding—*
*A highwayman comes riding, up to the old inn-door.*

XI
*Over the cobbles he clatters and clangs in the dark inn-yard,*
*And he taps with his whip on the shutters, but all is locked and barred;*
*He whistles 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.*
ANSWERS

1. Alfred Noyes, Narrator author
2. Narrative
3. 17 stanzas, 6 lines, aabcdb rhyme scheme
4. Robin Hood
5. Romeo and Juliet
6. simile/alliteration
7. rhythm, meter
8. refrain
9. metaphor, alliteration
10. Tim the Ostler
11. symbolism
12. onomatopoeia
13. simile
14. alliteration, onomatopoeia
15. personification
16. deep red
17. jealousy, hate
18. sacrificial
19. personification/simile
20. idiom, alliteration