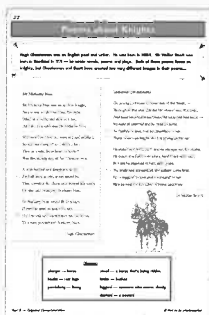


Poems about Knights



Question Book:
Year 5, pages 22-23

Author / Source:
Hugh Chesterman
Sir Walter Scott

Genre:
Classic poetry

Cross-curricular links:

- Art (designing shields)

Introduction

Sir Nicketty Nox is one of many children's poems published in the early twentieth century by the English poet and writer Hugh Chesterman. *Lochinvar* by Sir Walter Scott is an eight-stanza poem, of which the first two stanzas are reproduced here. *Lochinvar* was first published in 1808 as part of Scott's much longer poem, *Marmion*. *Sir Nicketty Nox* and *Lochinvar* describe two very different fictional knights, giving pupils an opportunity to compare the characters of Sir Nicketty Nox and Lochinvar, as well as the different poetic techniques used by the two poets.

Answers

1. Any appropriate answer. E.g. Sir Nicketty Nox is old, but Lochinvar is young. Sir Nicketty Nox is married, but Lochinvar is not.
2. d. a simile
3. E.g. It suggests that he's shrivelled and wrinkly.
4. AABB
5. E.g. brave; fearless; daring; bold
6. E.g. Because he wanted to marry Ellen. When he didn't arrive in time, she married someone else.
7. Any appropriate answer. E.g. I would prefer to meet Lochinvar because he is loyal and brave, and the poem says there never was a knight like him. Nicketty Nox, on the other hand, sounds boring and grumpy.

Extra Activities

- As a class, compare the form of the two poems. Ask pupils to identify the rhyme scheme of *Sir Nicketty Nox* and compare it with that of *Lochinvar*. How many syllables are there in each line of *Lochinvar*? How does this compare with the number of syllables per line in *Sir Nicketty Nox*?
- In *Lochinvar*, Scott often uses unusual word order and old-fashioned language. Ask pupils to rewrite the poem in prose, using modern language and standard English grammar. Encourage them to use a dictionary to find out the meaning of any words they are unfamiliar with.
- Ask pupils to think about which of the two poems they prefer. They should write a review of their preferred poem, explaining why they like it and discussing any aspects of it that they don't like.
- Get pupils to invent their own knightly character. They should write and illustrate an acrostic poem based on their knight's name. Ask them to include some animal-based similes like those in line 3 of *Sir Nicketty Nox* to describe their knight's defining characteristics.
- Ask pupils to design shields for Sir Nicketty Nox and Lochinvar. Encourage them to think about how they can represent the knights' characters that are mentioned in the poems on their shields.

