

Poetry UNIT 9

P.4 Lord Ullin's Daughter by Thomas Campbell

1. **Scotland stretches away in a spectacular fusion of wooded glens, sweeping moors, rugged coasts, towering mountains, green valleys and deep blue lakes known as Lochs. The Scottish people have long been famous for their close-knit clans organized under chieftains who often led fierce warriors to savage feuds.**
2. **Lord Ullin's Daughter is one of the most popular romantic poems of Thomas Campbell. It describes how a Scottish Chieftain and his beloved flee her wrathful father, but their defiance leads to their deaths, in a surging, stormy sea.**
3. **Your teacher will play a recording of the poem. Listen to it with your books closed and conjure up a scene of mystery, adventure and high drama that the poem portrays.**

1 A Chieftain, to the highlands bound,
Cries, "Boatman, do not **tarry!**
And I'll give thee a silver pound
To row us o'er the ferry!"-

5 "Now, who be ye, would cross Lochgyle,
This dark and stormy weather?"
"O, I'm the chief of Ulva's **isle,**
And this, Lord Ullin's daughter. -

"And fast before her father's men
10 Three days we've fled together,
For should he find us in the **glen,**
My blood would stain the **heather.**



tarry: linger, delay

isle: an island

glen: a deep narrow valley, especially in the mountains of Scotland.

heather: low, spreading plant with woody stems, small spiky leaves and purple, pink or white flowers.



"His horsemen hard behind us ride;
Should they our steps discover,
15 Then who will cheer my **bonny** bride
When they have slain her lover?"

Out spoke the hardy Highland wight,
"I'll go, my chief- I'm ready:
It is not for your silver bright,
20 But for your **winsome** lady:

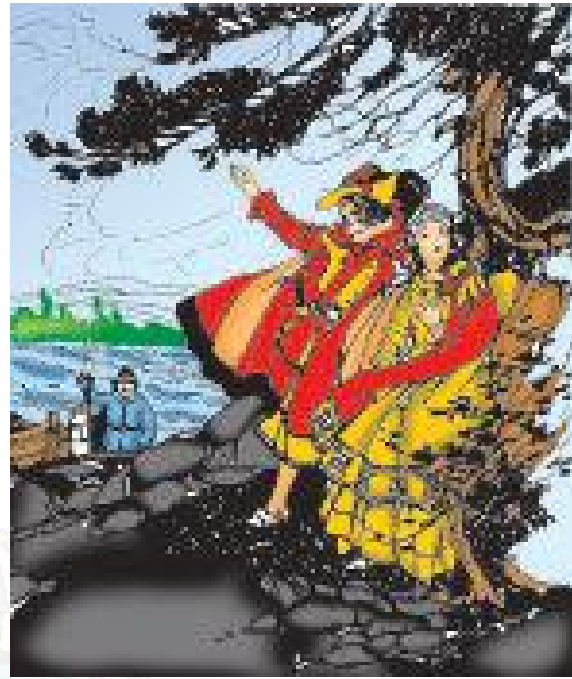
"And by my word! the bonny bird
In danger shall not tarry;
So, though the waves are **raging** white,
I'll row you o'er the ferry."

25 By this the storm grew loud **apace**,
The water-**wraith** was shrieking;
And in the **scowl** of heaven each face
Grew dark as they were speaking.

But still as wilder blew the wind,
30 And as the night grew drearer,
Adown the glen rode armed men,
Their **trampling** sounded nearer

"O haste thee, haste!" the lady cries,
"Though tempests round us gather;
35 I'll meet the raging of the skies,
But not an angry father."

The boat has left a stormy land,
A stormy sea before her,
When, O! too strong for human hand,
40 The tempest gather'd o'er her.



bonny: lovely, attractive
wight: valiant, skilled in fighting
winsome: pleasing because of a childlike charm and innocence
raging: angry, infuriated
apace: quickly
wraith: ghost, spectre, spirit
scowl: frown; black, dirty look
adown: (archaic) coming down
trampling: stamping, treading, walking over.



And still they row'd amidst the roar
 Of waters fast **prevailing**:
 Lord Ullin reach'd that fatal shore, --
 His **wrath** was changed to **wailing**.

- 45 For, **sore dismay'd** through storm and shade,
 His child he did discover: -
 One lovely hand she stretch'd for aid,
 And one was round her lover.
- "Come back! Come back!" he cried in grief
- 50 "Across this stormy water:
 And I'll forgive your highland chief,
 My daughter! - O my daughter!"
- 'Twas **vain**: the loud waves **lash'd** the shore,
 Return or aid preventing:
- 55 The water wild went o'er his child,
 And he was left **lamenting**.

About the Poet

Thomas Campbell (1777-1844) was born in Scotland. He is chiefly remembered for his sentimental poetry dealing specially with human affairs. He was also one of the initiators of a plan to found what became the University of London. In 1799, he wrote 'The Pleasures of Hope', a traditional 18th century survey in heroic couplets. He also produced several stirring patriotic war songs - "Ye Mariners of England", "The Soldier's Dream", "Hohen Linden" and in 1801, "The Battle of the Baltic".

4. **Now, listen to the poem again. As you listen this time, read the poem aloud, along with the recording. Try to copy the rhythm of the recording.**
5. **On the basis of your understanding of the poem, answer the following questions by ticking the correct choice.**

prevailing: conquering, overcoming

wrath: anger, exasperation

wailing: lamenting, crying, bemoaning

sore: in pain, distressed, pained

dismayed: disconcerted, shocked, disturbed

vain: futile, useless, to no avail

lashed: beat against, pounded, dashed against

lamenting: wailing, moaning, sobbing.



- (a) Lord Ullin's daughter and her lover are trying to _____
- (i) escape the wrath of her father.
 - (ii) settle in a distant land.
 - (iii) challenge the storm in the lake.
 - (iv) trying to prove their love for each other.
- (b) The boatman agrees to ferry them across because _____
- (i) he has fallen in love with Lord Ullin's daughter.
 - (ii) he wants to avenge Lord Ullin.
 - (iii) he has lost his love.
 - (iv) he is sorry for the childlike innocence of the lady.
- (c) The mood changes in the poem. It transforms from _____
- (i) happiness to fear.
 - (ii) anxiety to grief.
 - (iii) fear to happiness.
 - (iv) love to pain.
- (d) The shore of Lochgyle has been referred to as '*fatal shore!*' The poetic device used here is _____
- (i) metaphor
 - (ii) simile
 - (iii) transferred epithet
 - (iv) onomatopoeia

6. In pairs copy and complete the summary of the poem with suitable words/expressions.

A Scottish Chieftain and his beloved were (a) _____ from her wrathful father. As they reached the shores, the (b) _____ told a boatman to (c) _____ them across Lochgyle. He asked him to do it quickly because if (d) _____ found them, they would kill him. The boatman (e) _____ to take them not for the (f) _____ that the Chieftain offered but for his (g) _____. By this time, the storm had (h) _____ and a wild wind had started blowing. The sound of (i) _____ could be heard close at hand. The lady urged the boatman (j) _____ as she did not want to face an angry father.



Their boat left the (k) ____ and as it got caught in the stormy sea, Lord Ullin reached the deadly (l) _____. His anger changed to wailing when he saw his daughter (m) _____. He asked her to return to the shore. But it was (n) _____ as the stormy sea claimed his daughter and her lover.

7. **Why does Lord Ullin's daughter defy her father and elope with her lover? (Stanza 1)**
8. **Give two characteristics of the boatman who ferries the couple across the sea.**
9. **"Imagery" refers to something that can be perceived through more than one of the senses. It uses figurative language to help form mental pictures. Campbell used vivid, diverse and powerful imagery to personify the menacing face of nature. Pick out expressions that convey the images of anger in the following stanzas**

Stanza 6	•	_____
Stanza 7	•	'Water-wraith was shrieking'
	•	_____
Stanza 9	•	_____
Stanza 10	•	_____
	•	'Stormy land'
Stanza 13	•	_____
Stanza 14	•	_____

10. **Read the following lines and answer the questions that follow**

*"His horsemen hard behind us ride;
Should they our steps discover,
Then who will cheer my bonny bride
When they have slain her lover?"*

- a) Who is 'his' in line 1 ? Who does 'us' refer to?
 - b) Explain - 'cheer my bonny bride'.
 - c) Why would the lover be slain?
11. **"The water -wraith was shrieking". Is the symbolism in this line a premonition of what happens at the end? Give reasons for your answer. (Stanza 7)**
 12. **The poet uses words like 'adown', 'rode' which contain harsh consonants. Why do you think the poet has done this? (Stanza 8)**



13. In Stanza 10, the poet says -

*The boat has left a stormy land,
A stormy sea before her,-----*

- a) In both these lines, the word "stormy" assumes different connotations. What are they?
- b) The lady faces a dilemma here. What is it? What choice does she finally make?
- 14. a) "Lord Ullin reached that fatal shore" just as his daughter left it. (Stanza 11). Why is the shore called fatal?**
- b) Why does Lord Ullin's wrath change into wailing on seeing his daughter?**
- 15. "One lovely hand she stretch'd for aid." Do you think Lord Ullin's daughter wanted to reach out to her father? (Stanza 12) If yes, why?**
- 16. You are already familiar with the poetic device "alliteration". The poet makes extensive use of the same throughout the poem. Pick out as many examples of alliteration as you can.**
- Example : fast -father's; horsemen - hard.**
- 17. What is the rhyme-scheme of the poem?**
- 18. Imagine you are one of the chiefs of the cavalry riding behind Lord Ullin. You and your men ride for three days at the end of which you reach the shore. Narrate your experience as you witnessed a father lamenting the loss of his child, in the form of a diary entry.**
- 19. Imagine that you are Lord Ullin. You bemoan and lament the tragic loss of your lovely daughter and curse yourself for having opposed her alliance with the chieftain. Express your feelings of pain and anguish in a letter to your friend.**
- 20. In pairs, argue *in favour of* or *against* the topic "Lord Ullin's daughter was right in her decision to defy her father." Give logical and relevant reasons, and present your point of view to the class.**

