

"Bonny Barbara Allan"

Anonymous

Oh, in the merry month of May,
When all things were a-blooming,
Sweet William came from the Western states
And courted Barbara Allan.

5 But he took sick, and very sick
And he sent for Barbara Allan,
And all she said when she got there,
"Young man, you are a-dying."

"Oh yes, I'm sick, and I'm very sick,
10 And I think that death's upon me;
But one sweet kiss from Barbara's lips
Will save me from my dying."

"But don't you remember the other day
You were down in town a-drinking?
15 You drank your health to the ladies all around,
And slighted Barbara Allan."

"Oh yes, I remember the other day
I was down in town a-drinking;
I drank my health to the ladies all 'round,
20 But my love to Barbara Allan."

He turned his face to the wall;
She turned her back upon him;
The very last word she heard him say,
"Hardhearted Barbara Allan."

25 As she passed on through London Town,
She heard some bells a-ringing,
And every bell, it seemed to say,
"Hardhearted Barbara Allan."

30 She then passed on to the country road,
And heard some birds a-singing;
And every bird it seemed to say,
"Hardhearted Barbara Allan."

35 She hadn't got more than a mile from town
When she saw his corpse a-coming;
"O bring him here, and ease him down,
And let me look upon him.

"Oh, take him away! Oh, take him away!
For I am sick and dying!
His death-cold features say to me,
40 'Hardhearted Barbara Allan.'

"O Father, O Father, go dig my grave,
And dig it long and narrow;
Sweet William died for me today;
I'll die for him tomorrow."
45

They buried them both in the old graveyard,
All side and side each other.
A red, red rose grew out of his grave,
And a green briar out of hers.

50 They grew and grew so very high
That they could grow no higher;
They lapped, they tied in a truelove knot—
The rose ran 'round the briar.

ANALYSIS

1. Was Barbara justified in being "hardhearted" toward Sweet William? Or did he deserve his fate?
2. In the poem pick out an example of each of the following literary terms:
 - a. Dialect
 - b. Alliteration
 - c. Symbol
 - d. Refrain
 - e. Personification