Lochinvar

SIR WALTER SCOTT

△ Critical Viewing What details in this painting tell you it is set in the Medieval period? [Analyze]
O, young Lochinvar is come out of the
West,
Through all the wide Border his steed\textsuperscript{1} was
the best,
And save his good broadsword\textsuperscript{2} he weapons
had none;
He rode all unarmed, and he rode all
alone.

So faithful in love, and so dauntless in war,
There never was knight like the young
Lochinvar.

He stayed not for brake, and he stopped
not for stone,
He swam the Eske river\textsuperscript{3} where ford there
was none;
But, ere he alighted at Netherby\textsuperscript{4} gate,
The bride had consented, the gallant came
late:
For a laggard in love, and a dastard in war,
Was to wed the fair Ellen of brave
Lochinvar.

So boldly he entered the Netherby hall,
Among bridesmen and kinsmen, and
brothers and all;
Then spoke the bride's father, his hand
on his sword
(For the poor craven\textsuperscript{5} bridegroom said
never a word).
"O come ye in peace here, or come ye in
war,
Or to dance at our bridal, young Lord
Lochinvar?"

"I long wooed your daughter, my suit you
denied;—

Love swells like the Solway, but ebbs like
its tide—
And now I am come, with this lost love of
mine,

\textsuperscript{1} steed (stēd) n.: Horse.
\textsuperscript{2} broadsword n.: Sword with a wide
double-edged blade used for slashing
rather than thrusting.
\textsuperscript{3} Eske river (esk) n.: River near border
between England and Scotland.
\textsuperscript{4} Netherby n.: Name of the manor
where the poem is set.
\textsuperscript{5} craven (krā' van) adj.: Very cowardly.
To lead but one measure, drink one cup
of wine.
There are maidens in Scotland more lovely
by far,
That would gladly be bride to the young
Lochinvar:—

The bride kissed the goblet; the knight
took it up,
He quaffed off the wine, and he threw
down the cup,
She looked down to blush, and she looked
up to sigh,
With a smile on her lips and a tear in her
eye.
He took her soft hand, ere her mother
could bar—

“Now tread we a measure!” said young
Lochinvar.

So stately his form, and so lovely her face,
That never a hall such a galliard? did grace;
While her mother did fret, and her father
did fume,
And the bridgroom stood dangling his
bonnet and plume:

And the bridesmaids whispered, “‘Twere
better by far
To have matched our fair cousin with
young Lochinvar.”

One touch to her hand, and one word in
her ear,
When they reached the hall door, and the
charger stood near;
So light to the croupe the fair lady he
swung,
So light to the saddle before her he sprung!
“Shall we go, we are gone, over bank, bush,
and scaur:—
They’ll have fleet steeds that follow,”
quoth young Lochinvar.

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**Critical Viewing** What lines from
“Lochinvar” would make the best caption
for this tapestry? Explain. [Connect]

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**Build Vocabulary**

- **dauntless (dōn’t lis) adj.** Fearless
- **consented (ken sent’ id) v.** Agreed
- **laggard (lag’ ard) n.** One who is slow to move, follow, or respond
- **bar (bār) v.** To stop or prevent
- **tread (tred) v.** Walk; dance; step
- **fret (fret) v.** Worry

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6. goblet (gāb’ lit) n.: Drinking cup.
7. galliard (gāl’ yard) n.: Lively French
dance.
8. plume (plūm) n.: Decoration
made of a large feather or feathers.
9. scaur (skār) n.: Steep, rocky hill.
There was mounting 'mong Græmes of the Netherby clan;
Forsters, Fenwicks, and Musgraves, they rode and they ran;
There was racing, and chasing, on Cannobie Lee,
But the lost bride of Netherby ne'er did they see.
So daring in love, and so dauntless in war,
Have ye e'er heard of gallant like young Lochinvar?


Guide for Responding

◆ Literature and Your Life

Reader’s Response Did you hope that Lochinvar and Ellen would get away? Explain why you did or did not.
Thematic Focus What do the events in the poem tell you about Lochinvar's personal code?
Journal Writing In your journal, explain whether you think Lochinvar is a hero or a scoundrel.

✓ Check Your Comprehension
1. Where had Lochinvar been before arriving at Netherby hall?
2. What event is taking place as he arrives?
3. Describe Lochinvar's previous relationship with Ellen.
4. What do Lochinvar and Ellen do at the end of the poem?

◆ Critical Thinking

Interpret
1. Why do you think Ellen went with Lochinvar, even though she'd agreed to marry another? [Interpret]
2. How do the female characters and male characters differ in their response to Lochinvar? [Compare and Contrast]
3. What does Lochinvar's behavior at the wedding reveal about his values? [Infer]

Evaluate
4. Do you think Lochinvar's actions were justified? Why or why not? [Evaluate]

Apply
5. In literature, knighthly behavior is characterized by bravery and a romantic attitude toward women. How does this poem illustrate such characteristics? [Relate]