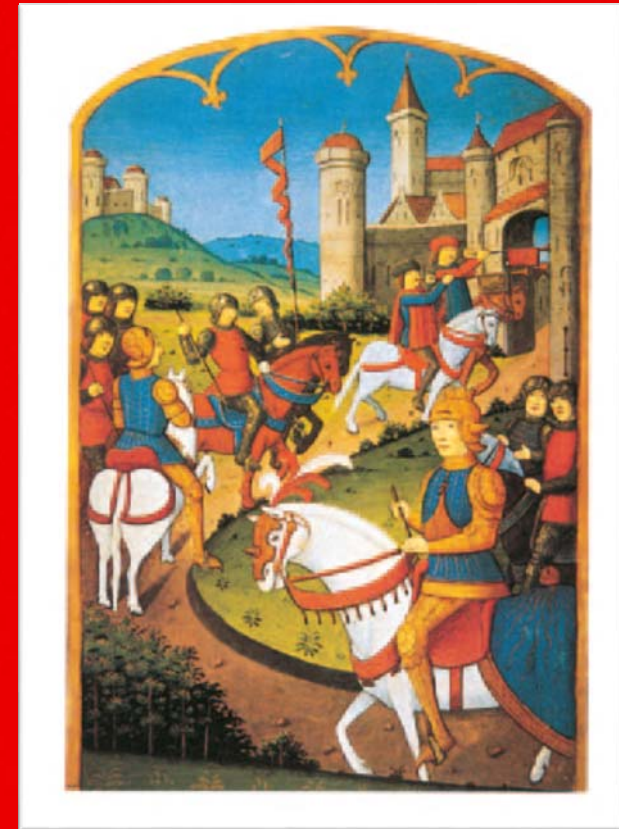


Medieval Ballad



MONDADORI EDUCATION

Its Origins

- The name comes from Old French *balade* (dancing song)
- Its musical origin can be traced back to the same tradition as the folk-song
- It is a form of **popular narrative verse**
- It employs a direct language
- It is transmitted orally



Its Structure (1)

- It is divided into smaller units called **stanzas**
- Each stanza is a **quatrain**: a stanza of four lines

*The king sits in Dumferline town
Drinking the blood red wine:
“O where will I get a good sailor
To sail this ship of mine?”*



Its Structure (2)

- Each line has got four **beats**

*The k**ì**ng s**ì**ts **ì**n Dumf**é**rl**ì**ne t**ò**wn*



Its Structure (3)

- Stanzas are often followed by a **refrain**

*“O where ha’ you been, Lord Randal my son?
And where ha’ you been, my handsome young man?”
“I ha’ been at the greenwood; **mother, make my bed soon,
For I’m wearied wi’ hunting and fain wad lie down”***

*“An’ wha met ye there, Lord Randal my son?
An’ wha met you there, my handsome young man?”
“O I met wi’ my true-love; **mother, make by bed soon,
For I’m wearied wi’ hunting an’ fain wad lie down”***



Its Content

- Most of the times tells about a tragical event
- It includes supernatural elements
- It may be based on some real historical events or on some well-known legendary figures

