The Ballad of the Sad Cafe
The Ballad of the Sad Cafe

The Title

Examples of Ballads

Characteristics

Folk. Of the common people

Simple. Straight forward

Action. Story

Sad. About suffering, tragedies, defeats: failed love, deaths, crimes,

-murders. passions, emotions rule.

-making music, out of suffering.

Literary Ballads
The Ballad of the Sad Cafe

The Ballad of the Sad Café has no chapters. However, there are breaks in the text. Using the breaks to identify separate “units”. There are 16 units, which function as chapters. I numbered them 1 through 16: You can too.

Unit 1: The Town. The Present 2 pages

Unit 2: Starts the story . The past.
   Introduces Amelia Evans.
   Lymon Willis arrives. 6 pages

Unit 3: The arrival continues. 2 pages

Unit 4: The Next Two Days Opening of the Café. 11 pages

Unit 5: Starts the Next Four Years. 2 pages

Unit 6: On Love. 2 pages

Unit 7: Flashback. Amelia’s Marriage to Marvin Macy. 8 pages
The Ballad of the Sad Café
Chapters (cont’d)

Unit 8: Amelia and Lymon’s Life Together. 3 Pages
Unit 9: Transition, Marvin out of the Penitentiary. 7 pages
Unit 10: Marvin returns. Lymon meets Marvin. Amelia away. 4 pages
Unit 11: Amelia returns. Marvin, Lymon, Amelia together. 2 pages
Unit 12: Life with Marvin. The conflict between Marvin and Amelia builds. 11 pages
Unit 13: They fight. 6 pages
Unit 14: The aftermath: Amelia
Unit 15: The Town: Present time. 1 page
Unit 16: (The only titled unit.) THE TWELVE MORTAL MEN
The Ballad of the Sad Café
Characters

Amelia Evans

- Raised by her father. No mother
- As masculine as a woman can be. 6’ 2”, 10 pounds. Muscular. Excellent Fighter
- Cross-eyed
- Runs the store. Rich.. Runs almost all business in the area.
- Does carpentry, construction
- Has and uses a typewriter
- Isolated
- Relates to people only to make money from them
- Brings law suits
- Makes heavenly liquor
- Is the local healer (except women’s complaints)
The Ballad of the Sad Café
Characters

Lymon Willis

• A hunchback (never called a dwarf, but is
• Comes from nowhere. Has no past.
• Has no known age.
• Child-like in some ways
• Very skilled socially
• Very self-centered
• Sickly
• Mischievous: a trouble-maker
The Ballad of the Sad Café
Characters (cont’d)

Marvin Macy

- Parents provide no care, then abandon him
- 6’ 1”, 160 lbs. muscular. Handsome.
- He is labeled as evil
- Maims animals
- Has killed a man. Carrries the man’s salted ear.
- Also carries marijuana
- Does not sweat
- Becomes a criminal and is imprisoned
The Ballad of the Sad Café
The “Love” Relationships)

- Amelia loves Lymon, He is indifferent
- Marvin loves Amelia, She rejects, beats up and humiliates Marvin
- Lymon loves Marvin, He rejects and beats up Lymon

The Narrator states a “philosophy” about love:

    The Lover and the Beloved are different. (Unit 6: pp. 25-26)
The Ballad of the Sad Café

The Townspeople

- Their Role and Importance
- Their Actions and Inactions

The Café

- The Title
- Its Role in the Action
- Its Importance
- The “Philosophy” of the Café (Unit 12. pp. 54-55)
The Ballad of the Sad Café
The Narrator

- The Frame
- The Various Voices
  - The Balladeer (Past Tense)
  - The Commentator (Present Tense)
  - Omniscent
- The Town Resident
- Before and After
- The Ending
The Ballad of the Sad Café
Conclusions

• Extremes, Excesses, Distortions
  • The Town
  • The “Love” Relationships:
    • Origins
    • Objects
  • The Grotesque Characters
  • The Supernatural
  • Family
  • Masculine Dominance
• Distancing
  • Similarities to Animal Farm
  • The Narrator’s Role
The Ballad of the Sad Café
Conclusions (cont’d)

• What is missing?
  • Communication
  • Responsibility
  • Morality (Religion)
  • Reflection, self-examination, self-awareness, inner life
  • Community
  • Kindness, Gentleness
  • The Feminine

• Is it a parable? What does it teach us?