Poems about Knights

Hugh Chesterman was an English poet and writer. He was born in 1884. Sir Walter Scott was born in Scotland in 1771 — he wrote novels, poems and plays. Both of these poems focus on knights, but Chesterman and Scott have created two very different images in their poems...

Sir Nicketty Nox

Sir Nicketty Nox was an ancient knight,
So old was he that he'd lost his sight.
Blind as a mole, and slim as a fox,
And dry as a stick was Sir Nicketty Nox.

His sword and buckler were old and cracked,
So was his charger* and that's a fact.
Thin as a rake from head to hocks*,
Was this rickety nag of Sir Nicketty Nox.

A wife he had and daughters three,
And all were as old, as old could be.
They mended the shirts and darned the socks
Of that old Antiquity, Nicketty Nox.

Sir Nicketty Nox would fly in a rage
If anyone tried to guess his age.
He'd mouth and mutter and tear his locks,
This very pernickety* Nicketty Nox.

Hugh Chesterman

Lochinvar (an extract)

Oh, young Lochinvar is come out of the West, —
Through all the wide Border his steed* was the best,
And save his good broadsword he weapons had none, —
He rode all unarm'd and he rode all alone.
So faithful in love, and so dauntless in war,
There never was knight like the young Lochinvar.

He stay'd not for brake*, and he stopp'd not for stone,
He swam the Eske river where ford there was none,
But ere he alighted at Netherby 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.

Sir Walter Scott

Glossary

charger — horse
hocks — rear legs
pernickety — fussy
steed — a horse that's being ridden
brake — bushes
laggard — someone who moves slowly
dastard — a coward

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