



The Ballad of the White Horse

by G. K. Chesterton · Best for C1–C2 (Advanced–Proficient)

Read-along audiobook · C1–C2

Chesterton retells the legend of King Alfred's defence of England against the Danes in a long narrative poem that blends medieval Christian imagery with his own thunderous rhetoric. The verse is metrically regular and often rousing, but the diction draws on theology, heraldry, and archaic English, and the poem's argument is philosophical as much as dramatic. Best approached by readers who already enjoy poetry and feel comfortable with sustained formal language.

What you'll practise

- Ballad metre and four-line stanzas with strong rhythmic patterns
- Medieval and ecclesiastical vocabulary: thane, heathen, abbess, chalice
- Extended metaphor and allegorical imagery sustained across many stanzas
- Tap any heraldic or theological term to see its meaning explained simply

How to read it — free

Listen to the full narration while you read along — every word above your level is highlighted in time with the voice and explained on tap. No signup, nothing to install.

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