Joan Bracey: extended writing ideas

Choose one of these ideas to help you create your own imaginative piece of writing
based on the story of Joan Bracey. We would love to see your work!
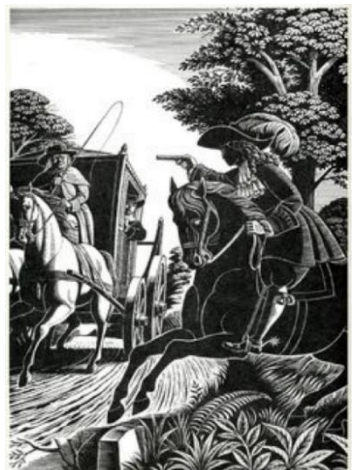
Idea 1: The tale of a highway robbery

Imagine you are one of this wealthy couple: Henry and Elizabeth
Fitzwilliam, Count and Countess of Thornley. You were riding back to
your country estate one evening when a highwayman robbed your
coach. Can you finish this account of the terrible event?

*Darkness was falling as we left behind the bright lights of London and rumbled
down a narrow, bumpy track, overshadowed by looming trees on each side.
Despite the jolting of the carriage I felt myself being lulled to sleep – until we
stopped with a sudden, sickening lurch that nearly threw me from my seat. Ahead
I could hear our horses snorting and stamping, along with the frantic shouts of the
coachman as he tried to steady them. Angrily leaning out of the window to
demand that the coachman drive on, I found myself staring down the barrel of a
pistol. Speechless with shock, I looked up at the man who held it. Silhouetted
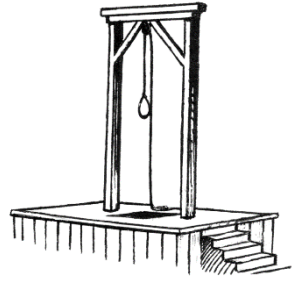against the dusky sky was the masked, cloaked figure of a highwayman…*

What happened next? You could include:

- **Details of what the highwayman wore and what he said.** (Look back at
  pages 9-10 of the story to help you. Was he charming or threatening?)

- **How you and your wife/husband felt.** (How did your body react?
  Were you shaking with fear or paralysed with fright?)

- **What you gave the highwayman.** (Did you take off your jewellery
  or hand over a purse of gold? Did you try to hide anything?)

- **How the incident ended.** (Did the highwayman use his pistol, or
  gallop away, laughing? Did he leave you hurt, or just shaken?)

Idea 2: The last thoughts of Joan Bracey

Re-read the description of Joan being led to her death (pages 13-14). What was she thinking as she walked out, or when she gazed at the fields? Use these bubbles to help you write sentences about Joan's thoughts and feelings. One has been done for you.

I'm afraid that...
Father will find out all the dreadful things I did and will feel ashamed of me. If only I'd never met Edward!

I dream of...

I can't forget...

I wish...

If only...

I hope...

I feel...

I'm sorry/not sorry that...