

Design a wanted poster

One of the themes explored in *Black Powder* is that people are not always what they seem. This mirrors the life and times of the **Gunpowder Plot** around which the story is based. The King had his own spy service, led by his chief minister, Robert Cecil. Cecil's spies adopted false identities both at home and abroad to keep a watchful eye on possible threats of foreign invasion and plots inspired by religious and political differences at home. And the plotters themselves went undercover using false names and arranging secret meetings to keep their plans from being discovered.

The story also deals with how easy it was in those days to end up on the wrong side of the law, especially if you were a Catholic. For example, Tom's father is forced to go on the run for rescuing and giving shelter to a Jesuit priest – something which was against the law in those days.

After Tom fails to get the help he was hoping for at his Uncle's house, he decides to run away himself. It is then that he meets the mysterious stranger who calls himself the Falcon. The Falcon agrees to help Tom try and rescue his father from the hangman's noose in return for his service. But as Tom quickly discovers, he and his friends, Harry Browne and Robin Cat, have plenty of secrets of their own. And then, as the mystery thickens, Tom learns that his cousin, Cressida has also gone missing.

So, there are all sorts of characters in the story who have reasons to go on the run and to be wanted either by the authorities or by others...

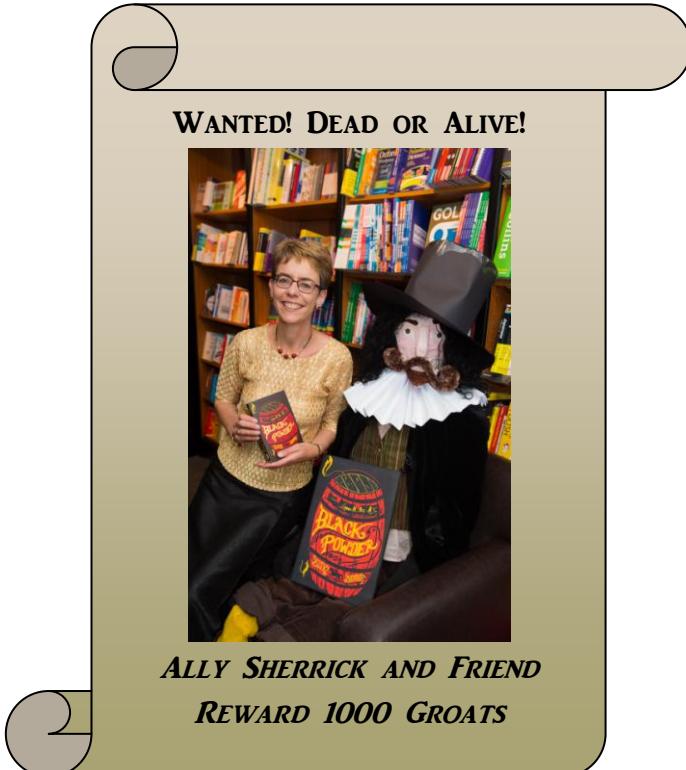
Activity

Design a 'wanted' poster based on one of the following characters in *Black Powder*.

- Tom Garnett
- Cressida Montague
- The Falcon
- Robin Cat
- Harry Browne
- Father Oliver (the Jesuit priest)
- Tom's father, Richard Garnett

Before you get started, think about the following questions:

- Who wants to find them?
- Why?
- Would they give this reason in the message on the poster? If not, what reason might they give instead?
- What things would they emphasise in the picture or description of the person? (For example – their good points; their bad points; anything about their appearance; their habits; the way they speak?)
- What reward might they offer for information about the person or their capture?



Black Powder Activity Sheet 1

Finally, compare your wanted poster with the ones of the same character done by your classmates. What have they chosen to pick out in their drawing or words which is the same? What is different?