



# INDIAN SCHOOL DARSAIT DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH



Subject :English

Topic :Rime of the Ancient Mariner

Worksheet no.:13

Date : \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the Student : \_\_\_\_\_

Class &Division : \_\_\_\_\_

Roll Number : \_\_\_\_\_

I Read the following extracts and answer the questions.

4 M

1. *“The bridegroom’s doors are opened wide,  
And I am next of kin  
The guests are met, the feast is set :  
May’st hear the merry din”.*

(a) Why is the wedding guest in a hurry?

The wedding guest is in a hurry because he was late for the marriage. It was his close relative’s wedding and he did not think of missing the occasion.

(b) Explain, “I am next of kin.”

The wedding guest means to say “I am next to kin” that he was a close relative of the bridegroom.

(c) Describe the wedding.

Most of the guests have arrived, the delicacies are ready and the merry noise can be heard.

(d) What does the word ‘Din’ here mean?

Prolonged noise.

2. *“He holds him with his glittering eye  
The wedding guest stood still  
And listens like a three-year old child  
The mariner hath his will”.*

(a) Why does the mariner hold him?

The mariner holds the wedding guest as he is reluctant to listen to him.

(b) Explain the figure of speech in line 3.

Simile – the wedding guest is compared to a three-year old child.

(c) What is the mariner’s will?

The mariner wants to hold the wedding guest and retell the story of his misery.

(d) What does the word ‘Hath’ here mean?

The word ‘Hath’ means ‘Has’.

3. *The ship was cheered, the harbour cleared  
Merrily did we drop  
Below the kirk, below the hill  
Below the light-house top.*

(a) On what note does the journey begin?

The journey begins with optimism and cheering.

(b) What sights were seen on the way?

They saw a church, hill and a light house when the ship cleared from the harbour.

(c) Discuss the use of ‘kirk’. What effect does it create?

It is an archaic word for ‘church’. It gives the poem the flavour of a traditional ballad.

(d) Explain the figure of speech in line 3& 4.

Its Anaphora-the word ‘Below’ is an anaphora as it creates a type of parallelism when

successive phrases begin with the same word.

4. ***And now the storm-blast came  
and he was tyrannous and strong  
He struck with his o’ertaking wings  
And chased us south along.***
- (a) Identify the figure of speech in line 3.  
Metaphor- the storm is directly compared to bird with large wings.
  - (b) Explain “overtaking wings” and “tyrannous”.  
It means powerful wings that create a horrifying effect.
  - (c) How does the storm affect the ship?  
The ship was driven towards the south.
  - (d) Who is ‘he’ in the second line?  
‘He’ here is the storm. Storm has been personified.
5. ***At length did cross an Albatross,  
Through the fog it come;  
As if it had been a Christian soul  
We hailed it in God’s name.***
- (a) What is an Albatross?  
Albatross is a very large white sea-bird with long wings.
  - (b) Explain – ‘did cross an Albatross’.  
An Albatross appeared near the ship.
  - (c) Why was the albatross hailed as a Christian soul?  
It was hailed as a Christian soul because it brought hope like Jesus.
  - (d) What blessings did the albatross bring?  
It appeared to be like a good omen and ushered in hope.
6. ***And a good south wind sprung up behind,  
The Albatross did follow,  
And every day, for food or play,  
Came to the mariner’s hollo!***
- (a) Why is south wind called good?  
The south-wind is called good because it moved the ship from the icy sea where the mariners had remained clueless and lost.
  - (b) Why did the Albatross come to the mariners every day?  
The Albatross came to the mariners for food and play.
  - (c) What does the word ‘Hollo’ mean?  
To call someone.
  - (d) Name the poet.  
Samuel Taylor Coleridge.
7. ***“God save thee, ancient Mariner  
From the friends, that plague thee thus !  
Why look’st thou so?” with my cross-bow  
I shot the Albatross”***
- (a) Identify the speaker of the first two lines.  
The wedding guest speaks these lines.
  - (b) What has been the speaker compelled to do?  
The wedding guest has been forced to hear the mariner’s tale of sin and suffering.
  - (c) What was the Mariner’s crime? Why did he do so?

The mariner's crime was killing of the albatross for no reason.

(d) Identify the rhyming scheme of the extract.

The rhyming scheme here is a, b, c, b.

8. ***Day after day, day after day  
We struck, nor breath nor motion,  
As idle as a painted ship  
Upon a painted ocean.***

(a) Why are the words repeated in the first sentence? Discuss their effect.

The repetition conveys a sheer length of time that passed.

(b) Who were struck and where?

The ship and sailors of the ancient mariner's ship were struck in the middle of the silent sea.

(c) What effect does the literary device of the last line create?

The last line is a simile and it pictorially describes a becalmed ship on a still ocean.

(d) Identify the rhyming scheme of the extract.

The rhyming scheme here is a, b, c, b.

9. ***About, about, in reel and rout  
The death fires danced at night  
The water, like a witches oils,  
Burnt green, and blue and white.***

(a) Explain – 'reel' and 'rout'.

'Reel' and 'rout' are dance movements and here they describe the circulatory motion of the fires.

(b) What do the death fires represent.

They represent the evil forces or death.

(c) Discuss the simile given in the last two lines.

The reference is to Shakespeare's three witches of Macbeth. The water seems to be sparkling with different colours. This is an element of supernaturalism.

(d) Identify the poetic device used in the first line.

Repetition- the word "About" is repeated to create a musical note.

10. ***Ah! well a-day! what evil looks  
Had I from old and young!  
Instead of the cross, the Albatross  
About my neck was hung.***

(a) Who are 'old' and 'young'?

The sailors on the ship.

(b) Why are the people casting evil looks?

They are casting evil looks on the ancient mariner because they hold him responsible for all their miseries.

(c) Why is the 'cross' removed from the mariner's neck? What does it indicate?

Punishment

(d) Why is the dead Albatross hung around the sailor's neck? What does it indicate?

Eternal damnation. A constant reminder of evil deed the ancient had committed by killing the albatross.

## II SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

2M

1. **Why is the albatross greeted like a ‘Christian soul’? What relationship is forged between the albatross and the crew of the ship?**

The albatross is welcomed as a good omen. The sailors are very happy to welcome and feed it for it is the only sign of life that they have seen. Its arrival also coincides with the blowing of the south-wind, which makes the ship sail. The bird is great company for all the sailors. It fills the crew with luck and hope. That is why the bird is called ‘a Christian soul’.

2. **‘We stuck, nor breath nor motion: As idle as a painted ship upon a painted ocean;’ Discuss how the ship came to be stuck and the problems faced by the crew.**

The ancient mariner and his crew were stuck in the middle of the silent sea. For a long time the sailor’s ship was stuck and there was no air or motion that could move the ship. The crew were in a state of sheer helplessness and the ship looked just like a painting. Initially south wind had driven the ship but suddenly the favourable wind stopped blowing and they were pushed towards a silent sea.

3. **‘Though the consequences of sin are equally borne by the crew, it is the ancient mariner alone, who has to face the brunt of punishment.’ How? OR Why did the fellow mariners hang the albatross around the mariner’s neck?**

The albatross was shot dead for no reason by the ancient mariner. The bird had been hailed, loved and welcomed. So, to punish the mariner, the dead albatross is hung around his neck as a sign of eternal damnation. Later due to problems, the bird is cursed. Basically, the sailors are fickle-minded who are hasty in punishment, though they also become party to the sin and suffer evil consequences.

4. **The sailors are fickle-minded. Justify the statement with reference to the poem.**

The sailors are very fickle-minded. First, they welcomed the albatross and considered it as a blessing and a good omen, which had caused the ice to split and the breeze to blow. Later they think that the albatross was responsible for the coming of fog and mist.

5. **What crime had the mariner committed and how did it prove hellish?**

The ancient mariner had shamelessly killed the innocent Albatross which had brought new hopes for the mariners. Killing of the bird proved to be hellish for him because the bird has been described as a ‘Christian soul’ which was the harbinger of happiness for the mariners struck in the silent sea.

## III. LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

8M

1. **What is a ballad? Discuss ‘Rime of the Ancient Mariner’ as a ballad.**

A ballad in literature is a narrative poem that usually tells a dramatic story. Early ballads in English and Irish literature that were handed down orally are folk ballads; their authors are unknown. Ballads that are composed as literary works by identified authors are literary ballads. "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" is a literary ballad by Samuel Taylor Coleridge, one that tells a very enthralling story of supernatural events on a ship at sea. This poem has a very striking and dramatic beginning in which the Wedding Guest is forcibly detained by the ancient mariner and the dialogues between both are very impressive. The language is simple and the use of archaic words by Coleridge adds authenticity to it. So, the poem has all the qualities of a ballad and it is very distinguished in all respects.