

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner

Samuel Taylor Coleridge

'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner' is a famous ballad written by the romantic poet S.T. Coleridge. The poem follows the classical ballads. The language is archaic, the atmosphere is mediaeval and even supernatural. The poem is based on the Christian theme of sin and repentance. The ancient Mariner committed the sin of killing an auspicious and innocent bird, the albatross. The dead albatross hangs around his neck all the time. It is a reminder that he has done something which is terribly morally wrong.

Poem at a Glance

- The ancient Mariner stops one of the wedding-guests.
- He wants to narrate his tale to him and unburden his grief.
- The Wedding-Guest is in a hurry as he has to attend the wedding party.
- The bright-eyed Mariner made the wedding-guest helpless.
- He had no option but listen to his tale.
- The old Mariner began narrating his story.
- Their ship was cheered off the harbour happily.
- There came a severe storm and it drove them southwards.
- Then it became very cold with both mist and snow.
- The ship was surrounded by huge icebergs as high as the mast.
- Then came the albatross from the fog.
- The sailors cheered it as a 'Christian Soul'.
- The albatross's arrival was auspicious as it brought a favourable south wind.
- The sailors gave it food and it flew over the ship.
- In a senseless fit, the ancient Mariner killed the albatross with his cross-bow.
- The fellow mariners cursed the old Mariner for killing an innocent and auspicious bird.
- The weather worsened. The Mariners changed their opinion.
- Now they justified the killing of the albatross as it had brought mist and snow.
- Sadness prevailed all around.
- The sun started blazing and the ocean seemed to rot.
- The wind stopped blowing and the sails were dropped down.
- The ship stuck at one point and didn't move ahead.
- It looked like a painted ship on a painted ocean.
- Water was all around but the sailors didn't have even a drop of water to drink.
- The sailors saw in their dreams a spirit that was plaguing them.

- They were in a hopeless situation and felt choked and dry in their mouths.
- They held the ancient Mariner responsible for all their woes.
- They all looked at him with "evil-eyes".
- The ancient Mariner was punished for his crime.
- Instead of the holy cross, the dead albatross was hung around his neck.

PART I

SUMMARY OF THE POEM

► Ancient Mariner Stops One of the Three Wedding-Guests

An old Mariner stopped one of the three Wedding-Guests. Though he had to rush to the wedding, the Wedding-Guest could do nothing but listen to the old Mariner's tale. The skinny hands and glittering eyes of the old Mariner made the Wedding-Guest sit and hear his tale.

► The Ship was Cheered Off Merrily; Harbour cleared

The old Mariner started narrating his story. Their ship was cheered off the harbour. Merrily did they start the journey. The Wedding-Guest started beating his breast. The bride had entered the wedding hall. He was already late. But he couldn't come out of the spell of the bright eyed Mariner.

► Storm Blasts; Mists and Snow

A very powerful sea-storm lashed the ship. It struck and chased them 'south along'. There the ship was surrounded by mist and snow. The icebergs came floating mast-high. The ship stood trapped in ice. It was totally a deserted place with no sign of life all around.

► Albatross Comes

Through the fog came an albatross, a huge sea-bird. All the sailors welcomed its arrival. They gave food to it everyday. They played with it and the bird flew round the ship. It continued following them. It proved lucky or auspicious to them. A favourable south wind began to blow. The ice cracked and the helmsman steered the ship clear out of the icebergs.

► बूढ़ा नाविक (Ancient Mariner) तीन में से एक शादी के मेहमान को रोकता है

एक बूढ़े नाविक ने तीन में से एक शादी में शामिल होने वाले एक मेहमान को रोक लिया। यद्यपि उसे जल्दी ही शादी में जाना था, शादी में जाने वाला मेहमान उस बूढ़े नाविक की कहानी को सुनने के अतिरिक्त कुछ भी नहीं कर सका। बूढ़े नाविक के खाल लटकते हाथों और चमचमाती आँखों (के असर) ने शादी के मेहमान को बैठ कर उसकी कहानी सुनने पर बाध्य कर दिया।

► जहाज को खुशी-खुशी विदा किया गया, बन्दरगाह का रास्ता साफ हुआ

बूढ़े नाविक ने अपनी कहानी सुनाना आरम्भ किया। उनकी जहाज को खुशी-खुशी बंदरगाह से विदा किया गया। खुशीपूर्वक उन्होंने यात्रा प्रारम्भ की। शादी में शरीक होने वाले मेहमान ने अपनी छाती पीट ली। दुल्हन शादी के कक्ष में प्रवेश कर चुकी थी। उसे पहले ही देर हो चुकी थी। लेकिन वह उस चमचमाती आँखों वाले बूढ़े नाविक के जादू से बाहर नहीं आ पाया।

► तूफान का विस्फोट, धुंध और बर्फ

एक बहुत शक्तिशाली तूफान ने जहाज पर धावा बोल दिया। उसने इस पर वार किया और उन्हें दक्षिण की ओर खदेड़ दिया। वहाँ जहाज धुंध और बर्फ से घिर गया। मस्तूल की ऊँचाई तक हिमखंड तैरते हुए आये। जहाज बर्फ में फँसा खड़ा रहा। यह एक बिल्कुल सुनसान जगह थी जहाँ चारों तरफ जीवन का कोई भी चिन्ह नहीं था।

► Albatross आता है

कोहरे में से एक विशाल समुद्री-पक्षी Albatross आया। सभी नाविकों ने उसके आगमन का स्वागत किया। उन्होंने उसे प्रतिदिन भोजन दिया। वे उसके साथ खेले और पक्षी जहाज के चारों ओर उड़ता रहा। वह उनका पीछा करता रहा। वह उन के लिए भाग्यशाली और शुभ साबित हुआ। एक लाभदायक दक्षिणी हवा चलने लगी। बर्फ टूट गयी और जहाज-चालक ने जहाज को हिमखण्डों से बिल्कुल बाहर निकाल दिया।

► Killing of the Albatross; Reaction of the Mariner

Then quite an unexpected thing happened. One day, the ancient Mariner killed the albatross with his cross-bow. The fellow sailors condemned that “hellish act” of the old Mariner. The innocent and auspicious bird made the favourable wind blow. Then the weather became worse. The mariner were fickle-minded. Now they started justifying the killing of the Albatross. They said that it had brought fog and mist.

► Sadness Prevails; Ship Gets Stuck

Soon the wind stopped blowing. The sailors dropped the sails down. They felt sad and helpless. They seldom talked to each other. They spoke only to break the silence of the sea.

► Albatross का मारा जाना, नाविकों की प्रतिक्रिया

फिर एक बिल्कुल अनहोनी घटना घटी। एक दिन, बूढ़े नाविक ने Albatross को अपने धनुष-कमान से मार दिया। साथी नाविकों ने बूढ़े नाविक की इस दुष्टता की भर्त्सना की। निर्दोष और शुभ Albatross उनके पक्ष में हवा लेकर आया था। फिर मौसम और खराब हो गया। नाविक खोखले दिमाग के थे। अब वे Albatross के मारे जाने को ठीक ठहराने लगे। वे बोले कि वह अपने साथ धुंध और कोहरा लाया था।

► उदासी छा जाती है, जहाज फँस कर खड़ा हो जाता है

शीघ्र ही हवा ने चलना बंद कर दिया। नाविकों ने अपने पाल गिरा दिये। उन्होंने स्वयं को उदास और असहाय पाया। वे शायद ही आपस में बात-चीत करते थे। वे सिर्फ समुद्र की शांति भंग करने के लिए ही बातें करते थे।

PARAPHRASE OF THE POEM

1. It is an ancient Mariner,
And he stoppeth one of three.
'By thy long grey beard and glittering eye,
Now wherefore stopp'st thou me?

(Lines 1-4)

Word-Meaning: **Ancient**—very old, बहुत बूढ़ा। **Mariner**—sailor, नाविक। **Glittering**—shining brightly, चमकमाती हुई। **Wherefore**—why, क्यों। **Stopp'st**—stop, रोकते हो। **Thou**—you, तुम।

► **हिन्दी अनुवाद :** वह एक बूढ़ा नाविक था जिसने तीन (शादी के तीन मेहमानों) में से एक को रोक लिया। “हे तुम, भूरी दाढ़ी और चमकदार आँखों वाले (नाविक), तुमने मुझे क्यों रोक लिया है?”

► **Paraphrase.** An old Mariner stops one of the three Wedding-Guests. The Wedding-Guest asked the grey bearded and glittering eyed old Mariner why he had stopped him.

2. 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.'

(Lines 5-8)

Word-Meaning: **Bridegroom**—the boy to be married, दुल्हा। **Kin**—member of family, (उसके) परिवार का सदस्य। **Feast**—banquet, भोज। **Set**—laid, लगा दिया गया है। **Merry**—happy, खुशी से भरी। **Din**—noise, शोर।

► **हिन्दी अनुवाद :** दुल्हे के द्वार चौड़े खुले हुए हैं। और मैं उसका एक नजदीकी रिश्तेदार हूँ। मेहमान बैठ गये हैं, भोज लगा दिया गया है। क्या तुम खुशी भरे शोर को नहीं सुन रहे?

► **Paraphrase.** The Wedding-Guest reminds the old Mariner that he is going to the wedding feast. The doors of the bridegroom are open wide. He is one of the close relatives of the bridegroom. The guests have arrived. The feast has been laid. He can hear the happy noise coming from there.

3. He holds him with his skinny hand,
'There was a ship,' quoth he.
'Hold off! unhand me, grey-beard loon!'
Eftsoons his hand dropt he.

(Lines 9–12)

Word-Meaning: **Skinny**—skin hanging down, खाल नीचे की ओर लटकी हुई। **Quoth**—said, कहा।
Hold off—free (me), मुझे छोड़ो। **Unhand**—leave my hand, मेरा हाथ छोड़ो। **Loon**—mad man, पागल।
Eftsoons—at once, एकदम। **Dropt**—dropped down, नीचे छोड़ दिया।

► **हिन्दी अनुवाद :** अपने खाल लटकते हुए हाथों से उसने उसे जकड़ कर पकड़ लिया। वह बोला कि 'एक समुद्री जहाज था।' 'मुझे छोड़ो! सफेद दाढ़ी वाले पागल, मेरा हाथ छोड़ो।' एकदम, उसने उसका हाथ नीचे छोड़ दिया।

► **Paraphrase.** The old sailor held the Wedding-Guest with his skinny hand. He narrated that there was a ship. The Wedding-Guest asked him to hold off and free his hand. He called the old Mariner a grey-bearded mad man. The old sailor took his hand away at once.

4. He holds him with his glittering eye-
The Wedding-Guest stood still,
And listens like a three years' child
The Mariner hath his will

(Lines 13–16)

Word-Meaning: **Holds him**—keeps under his spell, अपने (जादुई) प्रभाव में रखता है। **Still**—motionless, बिना हिले, स्थिर। **Hath his will**—got what he wanted, जो चाहता था मिल गया।

► **हिन्दी अनुवाद :** बूढ़े-नाविक ने शादी के मेहमान को अपनी चमचमाती आँखों से बाँध लिया। शादी का मेहमान चुपचाप खड़ा हो गया और तीन साल के एक बच्चे की तरह सुनने लगा। बूढ़े नाविक ने जैसा चाहा वैसा ही उसे मिला।

► **Paraphrase.** He kept the Wedding-Guest with his glittering eyes. The Wedding-Guest could do nothing but stood still silently. He listened to the tale of the Mariner like a three year's child. The Mariner got what he wanted. The Wedding-guest had no choice but listen to his story.

5. The Wedding-Guest sat on a stone:
He cannot choose but hear:
And thus spake on that ancient man.
The bright-eyed Mariner.

(Lines 17–20)

Word-Meaning: **Cannot choose but hear**—he had no choice but hear his tale, उसके पास उसकी कहानी सुनने के अतिरिक्त कोई विकल्प नहीं था।

► **हिन्दी अनुवाद :** शादी में जाने वाला मेहमान एक पत्थर पर बैठ गया। उसके पास (बूढ़े नाविक की) कहानी सुनने के अलावा और कोई चारा नहीं था। और फिर वह बूढ़ा आदमी, वह चमचमाती आँखों वाला नाविक, अपनी कहानी सुनाता चला गया।

► **Paraphrase.** The Wedding-Guest sat silently on a stone. He had no choice but hear the tale of the old Mariner. The bright-eyed Mariner continued narrating his story to the Wedding-guest.

6. The ship was cheered, the harbour cleared,
Merrily did we drop
Below the kirk, below the hill,
Below the lighthouse top.

(Lines 21–24)

Word-Meaning: **Cheered**—Welcomed and clapped by the people, लोगों द्वारा तालध्वनियों द्वारा विदाई का स्वागत किया गया। **Merrily**—happily, प्रसन्नता से। **Did we drop**—we dropped the sails, पाल नीचे गिराये। **Kirk**—church, गिरिजाघर।

► **हिन्दी अनुवाद :** “जहाज को तालध्वनियों द्वारा विदा किया गया। बन्दरगाह को पार किया गया। फिर जहाज गिरिजाघर, पहाड़ी और लाइट-हाउस की चोटी के नीचे होता हुआ आगे बढ़ा।”

► **Paraphrase.** The people cheered off the ship and it steered clear out of the harbour. The sailors very happily dropped down the sails. The ship passed through the church, hill and below the top of the lighthouse.

7. The Sun came up upon the left.
Out of the sea came he!
And he shone bright, and on the right
Went down into the sea

(Lines 25–28)

Word-Meaning: **He**—the sun, सूर्य। **Went down**—set, डूब गया।

► **हिन्दी अनुवाद :** सूर्य बाईं दिशा में चढ़ आया। वह समुद्र में से उठकर ऊपर आया। और वह चमचमाता रहा। और फिर दायीं ओर से नीचे समुद्र में लुप्त हो (छुप) गया।

► **Paraphrase.** The sun rose in the left. It seemed to come out of the sea. It continued shining brightly during the day. It went down into the sea and set in the right direction.

8. Higher and higher every day,
Till over the mast at noon—
The Wedding-Guest here beat his breast,
For he heard the loud bassoon,

(Lines 29–32)

Word-Meaning: **Mast**—the central pole in the ship, मस्तूल। **Beat his breast**—became restless and worried, बेचैनी में छाती पीट ली। **Bassoon**—a musical instrument, एक वाद्य-यंत्र, अलगोज़ा।

► **हिन्दी अनुवाद :** सूर्य रोज़ ऊँचा ही उठता गया जब तक कि वह दोपहर को मस्तूल के ऊपर नहीं आ गया। शादी के मेहमान ने यहाँ अपनी छाती पीट ली क्योंकि वह शादी में वाद्ययंत्र (बसून) अलगोज़े की आवाज़ सुनने लगा।

► **Paraphrase.** The sun rose higher and higher everyday till it reached over the mast at noon. The Wedding-Guest started beating his breast. The old Mariner was detaining him. He could hear the loud sound of the bassoon, a musical instrument being blown in the wedding party.

9. The bride hath paced into the hall,
Red as a rose is she;
Nodding their heads before her goes
The merry minstrelsy.

(Lines 33–36)

Word-Meaning: **Paced**—entered with fast steps, तेज़ कदमों से अन्दर आयी। **Nodding**—shaking (their heads), अपने सिर हिलाते। **Merry**—happy, प्रसन्न। **Minstrelsy**—singers and musician, गायक और वादक।

► **हिन्दी अनुवाद :** दुल्हन ने तेज़ कदमों से विवाह के (विशाल कक्ष) हाल में प्रवेश किया। वह एक लाल गुलाब जैसी थी। गायक और वादक उसके आगे सिर झुकाए हुए चले गये।

► **Paraphrase.** The bride entered the wedding hall with quick steps. Her face looked red as a red rose. The singers and musicians went past her nodding their heads.

10. The Wedding-Guest he beat his breast,
Yet he cannot choose but hear;
And thus spake on that ancient man,
The bright-eyed Mariner.

(Lines 37-40)

Word-Meaning: **Beat his breast**—became restless and worried, बेचैन और चिंतित हो गया।

► **हिन्दी अनुवाद :** शादी में शामिल होने जा रहे मेहमान ने अपनी छाती पीट ली। फिर भी उसके पास (बूढ़े नाविक की कहानी) सुनने के अतिरिक्त कोई भी विकल्प नहीं था। और इस प्रकार वह चमचमाती आँखों वाला, बूढ़ा नाविक बोलता ही चला गया।

► **Paraphrase.** The Wedding-Guest could only beat his breast in despair. He was detained by the old sailor and couldn't reach the wedding party in time. But he had no choice but listen to the old sailor's tale. So the bright eyed old sailor went on narrating his story.

11. And now the storm-blast came, and he
Was tyrannous and strong:
He struck with his o'ertaking-wings,
And chased us south along.

(Lines 41-44)

Word-Meaning: **Storm-blast**—bursting of a storm, तूफान का फूट पड़ना। **He**—(here) storm, तूफान। **Tyrannous**—severe and harsh, कठोर। **Struck**—attacked, धावा बोला, आक्रमण किया। **O'ertaking wings**—long-reaching-wings, लम्बी दूरी तक फैली। **Chased**—followed, पीछा किया।

► **हिन्दी अनुवाद :** और अब तूफान का एक झोंका आया। और वह बहुत कठोर और शक्तिशाली था। उसने अपनी लम्बी दूरी तक फैली पंखों से धावा बोल दिया। और हमें दक्षिण की तरफ खदेड़ता ले गया।

► **Paraphrase.** Then came a very powerful storm-blast. It was very severe and harsh. The storm struck the ship with its long reaching wings. It chased the ship and the sailors towards the south.

12. With sloping masts and dipping prow,
As who pursued with yell and blow
Still treads the shadow of his foe,
And forward bends his head
The ship drove fast, loud roared the blast,
And southward aye we fled.

(Lines 45-50)

Word-Meaning: **Sloping**—bending, झुकी हुई। **Prow**—the front part of the ship, जहाज का अगला हिस्सा। **Pursued**—chased, followed, पीछा किया। **Yell**—cry, चीख। **Blow**—attack, वार। **Treads**—walks, follows, पीछा करती है। **Foe**—enemy, शत्रु। **Aye**—yes, हाँ। **Fled**—ran away, भाग गये।

► **हिन्दी अनुवाद :** जहाज की मस्तूल झुक गयी और इसका अगला भाग पानी में डूब गया। यह जहाज ऐसे चला जैसे कोई चीख कर उस पर वार कर रहा हो और वह अभी भी अपने शत्रु की परछाई में चला जा रहा हो। पोत ने अपना सिर आगे की ओर झुका लिया। जहाज तेजी से चला और तूफान शोर मचाता, दहाड़ता और झकोरे मारता रहा। और हाँ हम दक्षिण की ओर भाग निकले।

► **Paraphrase.** The effect of the storm was terrible. The masts were slightly bent. The prow dipped in the water. The ship was moving as if it was being chased by a crying and attacking enemy. It was still under the shadow of its enemy (storm). The ship bent its head forward and drove fast. The storm roared loudly. And the ship fled southward.

13. And now there came both mist and snow,
And it grew wondrous cold:

And ice, mast-high, came floating by.
As green as emerald

(Lines 51-54)

Word-Meaning: **Mist**—fog like, धुंध। **Wondrous**—great, अधिक। **Mast high**—high up to the mast, मस्तूल तक ऊँची। **Emerald**—transparent bright green stone, पन्ना।

► **हिन्दी अनुवाद :** फिर धुंध और बर्फ दोनों ही गिरनी शुरू हो गयी। और फिर गजब की ठण्ड हो गयी। और शुद्ध हरे पन्ने (emerald) की तरह मस्तूल तक ऊँचे बर्फ के हिमखण्ड तैरते हुए आये।

► **Paraphrase.** Then came both mist and snow. All of a sudden it grew very cold. The icebergs looked like green emeralds. They came floating on the sea as high as the mast.

14. And through the drifts the snowy cliffs
Did send a dismal sheen
Nor shapes of men nor beasts we ken—
The ice was all between.

(Lines 55-58)

Word-Meaning: **Drifts**—floating pieces of ice, बर्फ के तैरते टुकड़े। **Cliffs**—steep sides of icebergs, हिम-खण्डों के सीधी चढ़ान वाले हिस्से। **Dismal**—sad, उदास। **Sheen**—gentle brightness, हल्की चमक। **Beasts**—animals, पशु। **Ken**—see, देख सकते थे।

► **हिन्दी अनुवाद :** और तैरती हुई बर्फ और ऊँचे हिमखण्डों के बीच में से उदास चमक आ रही थी। नाविकों को (हमने) वहाँ मनुष्य या दरिदों की कोई भी शक्ल नहीं दिखायी पड़ी। बीच में सिर्फ बर्फ ही बर्फ थी।

► **Paraphrase.** Through the floating pieces of ice and steep icebergs came a sad but gentle light. The place was totally deserted. No shapes of men or beasts could be seen there. Only ice was seen all around the ship.

15. The ice was here, the ice was there.
The ice was all around
It cracked and growled, and roared and howled.
Like noises in a swound!

(Lines 59-62)

Word-Meaning: **Growled**—made angry noises, गुस्से भरा शोर करती थी। **Howled**—cried, चीखती थी। **Swound**—fainting fit, बेहोशी के दौरों में।

► **हिन्दी अनुवाद :** बर्फ यहाँ पर थी और बर्फ वहाँ पर भी थी। बर्फ चारों ओर थी। वह (बर्फ) टूटती, गुरगुरती, दहाड़ती और चीखती ऐसा शोर मचा रही थी जैसा शोर बेहोशी का दौरा पड़ने पर होता है।

► **Paraphrase.** The ice was here and the ice was there. Actually, the ice was all around. When the ice cracked it made a growling or angry sound. It roared and cried as persons cry in a fainting fit.

16. At length did cross an Albatross.
Through the fog it came
As if it had been a 'Christian soul,
We hailed it in God's name.

(Lines 63-66)

Word-Meaning: **Albatross**—a huge sea-bird with long wings, बड़ी पंखों वाला एक समुद्री पक्षी। **Hailed**—welcomed, स्वागत किया।

► **हिन्दी अनुवाद :** आखिरकार, एक समुद्री-पक्षी Albatross जरूर वहाँ आया। वह कोहरे में से आया था। वह ऐसे आया जैसे वह एक 'मसीही (Christian) आत्मा' हो। हमने उसका ईश्वर के नाम पर स्वागत किया।

► **Paraphrase.** At last, an Albatross did come. It came there from the fog. It came there as if it had been a Christian Soul. The sailors hailed the bird in God's name.

17. It ate the food it ne'er had eat,
And round and round it flew.
The ice did split with a thunder-fit;
The helmsman steered us through! (Lines 67-70)

Word-Meaning: **Split**—broke into pieces, टुकड़ों में विभाजित। **Thunder-fit**—like a thundering sound, कड़कड़ाहट के साथ। **Helmsman**—the man steering the ship, जहाज-चालक। **Steered**—drove, ले गया। **Through**—across, आर-पार।

► **हिन्दी अनुवाद :** उसने वह खाना खाया जो उसने कभी भी नहीं खाया था। और वह जहाज के चारों ओर उड़ता रहा। बर्फ कड़कड़ाहट के साथ (जरूर) टूट गयी। जहाज चालक ने (टूटी हुई बर्फ के बीच में से) जहाज को बिल्कुल पार लगा दिया।

► **Paraphrase.** The albatross ate the food that the sailors gave to it. The bird had never eaten such a food. It flew all around the ship. At last, the ice broke into pieces with a thundering noise. The helmsman steered the ship out of the icebergs safely.

18. And a good south wind sprung up behind
The Albatross did follow,
And everyday, for food or play,
Came to the Mariner' hollo! (Lines 71-74)

Word-Meaning: **Sprung up**—blew up, rose, उठी। **Hollo**—shout, call, चिल्लाहट, पुकार।

► **हिन्दी अनुवाद :** फिर एक अच्छी दक्षिणी हवा पीछे से उठी। Albatross अवश्य ही हमारा पीछा करता रहा। और हर रोज चाहे खाने के या खेलने के लिए, वह नाविकों की पुकार पर आ जाता था।

► **Paraphrase.** Then a good south wind started blowing behind the ship. The albatross continued following the ship. It came near the ship everyday at the call of the mariners. It came for food or play.

19. In mist or cloud, on mast or shroud,
It perched for vespers nine:
Whiles all the night, through fog-smoke white.
Glimmered the white moon-shine. (Lines 75-78)

Word-Meaning: **Mast**—the big pole holding the sails, मस्तूल। **Shroud**—sail, पाल। **Perched**—sat, बैठता था। **Vespers nine**—evening church service time, संध्या बेला चर्च की सर्विस प्रार्थना के समय। **Glimmered**—shone, चमकती थी।

► **हिन्दी अनुवाद :** धुंध में या बादलों वाले मौसम में, Albatross मस्तूल या पाल पर जमा बैठा रहता था। वह चर्च की प्रार्थना के समय से लेकर रात्रि तक आकर बैठ जाता। सारी रात, सफेद चाँदनी कोहरे के सफेद धुएँ में चमकती रहती।

► **Paraphrase.** The Albatross used to come in mist or in cloudy weather and sat on the mast or the sail. It sat for nine evenings at the time of the Church-service. All night the white moonlight shone through the fog-smoke.

20. 'God save thee, ancient Mariner!
From the fiends, that plague thee thus!-
Why look'st thou so?'-“With my cross-bow
I shot the Albatross.” (Lines 79-82)

Word-Meaning: **Fiends**—devils, evil spirits, राक्षस, बुरी प्रेतात्माएँ। **Plague**—trouble, torture, पीड़ित करती हैं। **Cross-bow**—bow and arrow with a trigger, खटके वाला धनुष।

► **हिन्दी अनुवाद :** शादी में शामिल होने जा रहा मेहमान भयभीत हो रहे बूढ़े नाविक की ओर देखने लगा। उसने कहा “हे बूढ़े नाविक, ईश्वर तुम्हें उन शैतानों से बचाये जिन्होंने तुम्हें सता रखा है। तुम इस प्रकार (विचित्र) क्यों लग रहे हो?” फिर बूढ़े नाविक ने उत्तर दिया “मैंने खटके वाले अपने धनुष से Albatross को मार दिया।

► **Paraphrase.** The Wedding-Guest was scared to look at the old Mariner's face. He prayed that God might save him from the evil spirits that were torturing him. He asked the Mariner why he was looking so horrible. The old Mariner replied that he took his cross-bow and shot the albatross dead.

REFERENCE TO CONTEXT

Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow:

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.'

(Page 112)

Questions

- (a) Who is speaking here?
(b) What creates the merry din?
(c) Notice the poetic device used in the third line.

Answers

- (a) one of the wedding guests and a member of the bridegroom's family is speaking here.
(b) The celebrations of the marriage creates the merry din.
(c) The poetic device used here is alliteration

2. He holds him with his glittering eye-
The Wedding-Guest stood still,
And listens like a three years' child:
The Mariner hath his will.

(Page 112)

Questions

- (a) What does the expression 'The Mariner holds him with his glittering eyes' mean?
(b) How did the Mariner hath his will?
(c) What is the poetic device used in the third line?

Answers

- (a) It means that he holds him under the spell of his glittering eyes.
(b) The Mariner had his will by forcing him to listen to his tale.
(c) The poetic device used here is simile.

3. "The ship was cheered, the harbour cleared,
Merrily did we drop

Below the kirk, below the hill,
Below the lighthouse top.

(Page 112)

Questions

- (a) Note the poetic devices used in the lines.
- (b) Where did the ship pass through?
- (c) What is the word for 'applauded' in the passage?

Answers

- (a) The poetic device used here is alliteration and repetition.
- (b) The ship passed through the church and below the hill and the lighthouse.
- (c) cheered

4. Higher and higher every day,
Till over the mast at noon-
The Wedding-Guest here beat his breast,
For he heard the loud bassoon.

(Page 113)

Questions

- (a) What went 'higher and higher every day'?
- (b) Why did the Wedding-Guest beat his breast?
- (c) Note the poetic device used in the first line.

Answers

- (a) The sun went hiegher and heigher every day.
- (b) The wedding guest beat his breast he could hear the music of celebration but was helpless not to be at the wedding.
- (c) The poetic device used here is repetition.

5. "And now the storm-blast came, and he
Was tyrannous and strong:
He struck with his o'ertaking wings,
And chased us south along.

(Page 113)

Questions

- (a) What was the nature of the storm-blast?
- (b) Who struck with o'ertaking wings?
- (c) What did the storm-blast do?

Answers

- (a) It was severe and strong.
- (b) The storm struck with o'ertaking wings.
- (c) The storm-blast chased the ship southwards.

6. And through the drifts the snowy clifts
Did send a dismal sheen:
Nor shapes of men nor beasts we ken
The ice was all between

(Page 114)

Questions

- (a) What are the poetic devices used in the second line?
- (b) What does the phrase 'a dismal sheen' mean?
- (c) What does the word 'ken' here mean?

Answers

- (a) Alliteration and metaphor are the poetic devices used in the second line.
- (b) It means a sad and gentle brightness.
- (c) It means see.

7. At length did cross an Albatross,
 Through the fog it came;
 As it had been a Christian soul,
 We hailed it in God's name.

(Page 114)

Questions

- (a) What is an Albatross?
- (b) Where did the bird come from?
- (c) Describe the poetic device used in the third line.

Answers

- (a) Albatross is a very large white sea-bird with long wings.
- (b) The bird came from through the fog.
- (c) It is simile.

8. It ate the food it ne'er had eat,
 And round and round it flew.
 The ice did split with a thunder-fit;
 The helmsman steered us through!

(Page 114)

Questions

- (a) What did the Albatross eat?
- (b) Describe the poetic device used in the second line.
- (c) Who was the helmsman?

Answers

- (a) The Allbatross ate whatever the sailors gave it.
- (b) Here it is repetition.
- (c) He was the person steering the ship.

9. In mist or cloud, on mast or shroud,
 It perched for vespers nine,
 Whiles all the night, through fog-smoke white,
 Glimmered the white moonshine."

(Page 114)

Questions

- (a) Who 'perched for vespers nine' ? What does it mean?
- (b) Note the poetic device used in the first line.
- (c) What shone in the fog-smoke white?

Answers

- (a) The Albatross perched for vespers nine. It means that it sat at a fixed time during the evening church-service.
- (b) It is alliteration.
- (c) The white moonshine same in the fog smoke white.

10. 'God save thee, ancient Mariner,
From the fiends that plague thee thus!
Why look'st thou so?'-“With my crossbow
I shot the Albatross.”

(Page 114)

Questions

- (a) Who is the speaker of the first two lines?
- (b) Give the meaning of ... 'the fiends that plague thee'?
- (c) Notice the rhyme-scheme used in this stanza.

Answers

- (a) The wedding-guest is the speaker here.
- (b) It means evil spirits that trouble you.
- (c) The rhyme scheme here is a, b, c, b.

QUESTIONS FROM TEXTBOOK SOLVED

Q1. Look at the picture carefully and answer the questions given below:

See Literature Reader Page 111

- 1. What can you see in the picture? Does the man look happy? Give reasons for your answer.
- 2. Why does he have the bird hanging around his neck?
- 3. Have you heard of the expression-'having an albatross around your neck'? What do you think it means? Does it mean:
 - (a) something that you can always be proud of
 - (b) something that you have to do because you have no choice
 - (c) something that is with you all the time as a reminder that you have done something wrong?
- 4. What is an Albatross?

- Ans.**
- 1. We see in this picture an ancient (old) Mariner. He does not look happy. He is suffering from a sense of guilt. He has killed an auspicious and innocent bird in a fit of anger with his cross-bow.
 - 2. He has the bird hanging round his neck as a punishment for killing the innocent and auspicious bird, the albatross. It will stay with him forever, reminding him of the terrible sin that he has committed.
 - 3. (c) Yes, I have heard this expression. It means something that is with you all the time as a reminder that you have done something wrong.
 - 4. An Albatross is a big white sea-bird with long wings. It is generally found in the Pacific and Southern Oceans.

Q3. The teacher will now assign roles and ask you to read the poem aloud to show how the poem has been written in the first person (the parts in quotation marks spoken by the Mariner) and in the third person (where the narrator comments about the events taking place)

Ans. To be done at Class Level.

Q4. Here are some of the archaic words used in the poem; can you match them with the words used in modern English language that mean the same? The first one has been done for you as an example:

Stoppeth	why
thy	entered
wherefore	stopped
stopp'st	you
thou	lunatic
may'st	at once
quoth	fainting fit
loon	has
eftsoons	can't you
dropt	stopping
hath	church

spake	enemy
kirk	yes
paced	see
foe	call
aye	trouble
ken	looking
swound	your
hollo	said
plague	dropped
look'st	spoke

Ans.

Archaic words	Modern English
thy	your
wherefore	why
stopp'st	stopping
thou	you
may'st	can't you
quoth	said
loon	lunatic
eftsoons	at once
dropt	dropped
hath	has

Archaic words	Modern English
spake	spoke
kirk	church
paced	entered
foe	enemy
aye	yes
ken	see
swound	fainting fit
hollo	call
plague	trouble
look'st	looking

Q5. Using the words given above rewrite PART I of the poem in your own words. The first stanza has been done as an example:

It is an ancient Mariner,
And he stoppeth one of three.
'By thy long grey beard and glittering eye,
Now wherefore stopp'st thou me?

An old sailor stopped one of the three people passing by, who asked: "Old man, with your long grey beard and glittering eye, why are you stopping me?"

Ans. Please see the paraphrase of each stanza.

Q6. Answer the following by choosing the right option from those given below:

- (a) The Ancient Mariner stopped one of the three wedding guests because
- (i) he wanted to attend the wedding with him
 - (ii) he wanted him to sit with him

- (iii) he wanted him to listen to his story
 - (iv) he wanted to stop him from going to the wedding.
- (b) The wedding guest remarked that he was 'next of kin' which means that
- (i) he was a close relation of the bridegroom
 - (ii) he was a close relation of the bride
 - (iii) he was next in line to get married
 - (iv) he had to stand next to the bridegroom during the wedding.
- (c) 'He cannot choose but hear' means
- (i) the Mariner was forced to hear the story of the wedding guest
 - (ii) the wedding guest was forced to hear the story of the Mariner
 - (iii) the Mariner had the choice of not listening to the story of the wedding guest
 - (iv) the wedding guest had the choice of not listening to the story of the Mariner.
- (d) 'The sun came up upon the left, / Out of the sea came he; 'This line tells us that the ship
- (i) was moving in the northern direction
 - (ii) was moving eastwards
 - (iii) was moving in the western direction
 - (iv) was moving towards the south.
- (e) The Wedding-Guest beat his breast because
- (i) he could hear the sound of the bassoon
 - (ii) he was forced to listen to the Mariner's tale when he wanted to attend the wedding
 - (iii) the sound of the bassoon meant that the bride had arrived and the wedding ceremony was about to begin and he could not attend it
 - (iv) the sound of the bassoon announced the arrival of the bride and the start of the wedding ceremony.
- (f) The storm blast has been described as being tyrannous because
- (i) it was so fierce that it frightened the sailors
 - (ii) it took complete control of the ship
 - (iii) the storm was very powerful
 - (iv) the sailors were at its mercy.
- (g) The sailors felt depressed on reaching the land of mist and snow because
- (i) there was no sign of any living creature
 - (ii) they felt they would die in that cold weather
 - (iii) they were surrounded by icebergs and there seemed to be no sign of life
 - (iv) everything was grey in colour and they felt very cold.
- (h) The sailors were happy to see the Albatross because
- (i) it was the first sign of life and therefore gave them hope that they might survive
 - (ii) it split the icebergs around the ship and helped the ship move forward
 - (iii) it was a messenger from God and it lifted the fog and mist.
 - (iv) it gave them hope of survival by splitting the icebergs.

- (i) The two things that happened after the arrival of the Albatross were
 - (i) the icebergs split and the Albatross became friendly with the sailors
 - (ii) the icebergs split and a strong breeze started blowing
 - (iii) the ship was pushed out of the land of mist and the ice melted
 - (iv) the albatross started playing with the mariners and ate the food they offered.
- (j) 'It perched for vespers nine' means
 - (i) the ship stopped sailing at nine o'clock every day
 - (ii) the Albatross would appear at a fixed time everyday
 - (iii) the Albatross would sit on the sail or the mast everyday
 - (iv) the Albatross was a holy creature
- (k) 'God save thee, ancient Mariner From the fiends that plague thee thus! Why look'st thou so?' means
 - (i) the Mariner wanted to know why the wedding guest was looking so tormented
 - (ii) the wedding guest wanted to know why the Mariner was looking so tormented
 - (iii) the wedding guest wanted to know whether some creatures were troubling the ancient Mariner
 - (iv) the ancient Mariner wanted to know whether something was troubling the wedding guest.

- Ans.**
- (a) (iii) he wanted him to listen to his story
 - (b) (i) he was a close relation of the bridegroom
 - (c) (ii) the wedding guest was forced to hear the story of the Mariner
 - (d) (iv) was moving towards the south
 - (e) (ii) he was forced to listen to the Mariner's tale when he wanted to attend the wedding
 - (f) (ii) it took complete control of the ship
 - (g) (ii) they felt that they would die in the cold weather.
 - (h) (i) it was the first sign of life and therefore gave them hope that they might survive
 - (i) (ii) the icebergs split and a strong breeze started blowing
 - (j) (ii) the albatross would appear at a fixed time every day
 - (k) (ii) the wedding guest wanted to know why the Mariner was looking so much tormented

Q7. Answer the following questions briefly.

- (a) How did the ancient Mariner stop the wedding guest?
- (b) Was the wedding guest happy to be stopped? Give reasons for your answer.
- (c) Describe the ancient Mariner.
- (d) How does the Mariner describe the movement of the ship as it sails away from the land?
- (e) What kind of weather did the sailors enjoy at the beginning of their journey? How has it been expressed in the poem?
- (f) How did the sailors reach the land of mist and snow?

- (g) How does the Mariner express the fact that the ship was completely surrounded by icebergs?
 - (h) How do we know that the albatross was not afraid of the humans? Why did the sailors hail it in God's name?
 - (i) What was the terrible deed done by the Mariner? Why do you think he did it?
- Ans.**
- (a) The ancient Mariner stopped one of the three Wedding-Guests. The wedding guest protested. The bridegroom's doors were opened wide. He was an important member of the bridegroom's family. He must be present at the wedding. The Mariner held him with his skinny hand. His long beard and glittering eyes had a magical effect. The wedding guest could do nothing but to listen to the Mariner's story.
 - (b) The Wedding-Guest was not at all happy to be stopped by the ancient Mariner. The bridegroom's doors were opened wide. He was a very close and important member of the bridegroom's family. The guests had arrived. The feast was set. He was hearing the joyful celebrations at the wedding. His presence was necessary at the wedding ceremonies.
 - (c) The ancient Mariner was an old man. He had a long grey beard and glittering eyes. He had skinny hands. His glittering eyes could hold the wedding guest under their spell. He was hypnotised to sit there and listen to the tale of the old Mariner helplessly like a child.
 - (d) The Mariner describes how the ship sailed away from the land. The ship was cheered by the people standing at the harbour. The ship came out of the harbour safely. It passed below the church. Then it moved towards the hill and sailed on after leaving the light house. Finally, it entered the open sea.
 - (e) In the beginning, the day was sunny. The sailors seemed to enjoy the weather. The sun appeared to be rising out of the sea and going down back into the sea. But then the storm-blast came. It was a very severe and strong storm. It struck and took the ship completely under its vicious control. It chased the ship southwards.
 - (f) The furious storm made the mast bend and the prow dip. The roaring storm chased the ship like a dreadful enemy. The ship sailed southwards. And there it had to face a very hostile weather. Now 'there came both mist and snow'. Green ice as high as the mast came floating by the ship. The sailors had reached the land of mist and snow.
 - (g) There were huge blocks of floating ice and steep snowy ice-bbergs. Through them came a very dim and dark light. There was no human or animal habitation nearby. The ship and the sailors were completely surrounded by huge icebergs.
 - (h) The albatross was not afraid of human beings. It ate the food that the sailors gave to him. He kept on flying 'round and round' the ship. He followed the ship every day either for food or for play. The sailors hailed it in God's name as he was the first living creature that was seen in the land of mist, snow and ice bergs.
 - (i) When things were changing for the better and the ship had been steered through, a terrible thing happened. The old Mariner took his crass-bow and shot the albatross. It was a terrible thing as the bird had proved lucky for them. It had brought a good south wind with it. Why did the old Mariner do it? It is rather difficult to comprehend. It might be a rush of blood or a fit of madness that caused him act like this.

Q8. There are a number of literary devices used in the poem. Some of them have been listed below. Choose the right ones and write them down in the table as shown in the example. In each of the cases explain what they mean.

simile, metaphor, alliteration, personification, hyperbole, repetition,

1. The Wedding-Guest stood still, And listens like a three years' child:	Simile: the wedding guest was completely under the control of the mariner
2. Below the kirk, below the hill, Below the lighthouse top	
3. The sun came up upon the left, Out of the sea came he	
4. The bride hath paced into the hall, Red as a rose is she	
5. And now the storm-blast came, and he was tyrannous and strong:	
6. With sloping masts and dipping prow, As who pursued with yell and blow Still treads the shadow of his foe	
7. The ice was here, the ice was there, The ice was all around	

Ans.

1. The Wedding-Guest stood still, And listens like a three years' child:	Simile: the wedding guest was completely under the control of the Mariner
2. Below the kirk, below the hill, Below the lighthouse top	Repetition: the ship passed through the church, the hill and the light-house
3. The sun came up upon the left, Out of the sea came he	Hyperbole: The sun came up to the left arising out of the sea
4. The bride hath paced into the hall, Red as a rose is she	Simile: The bride entered the hall and she was red like a flower of rose
5. And now the storm-blast came, and he was tyrannous and strong:	Personification: The storm was cruel and strong like a tyrant
6. With sloping masts and dipping prow, As who pursued with yell and blow Still treads the shadow of his foe	Metaphor: With bending masts and dipping front the ship was chased by the crying storm like a foe
7. The ice was here, the ice was there, The ice was all around	Repetition: The ice was everywhere

Q9. In groups of four discuss what you think happens next in the poem. Share your views with the rest of the class.

Ans. Class room activity.

PART II

SUMMARY OF THE POEM

► Troubling Situation

The sun was blazing. It became red hot like copper. The ship was stuck at one point and refused to move ahead. It looked like an idle ship on a painted ocean.

► Sailors Under a Curse

For days, they got stuck and didn't move at all. Water was all around but they had not a drop to drink. The sea did rot and about to boil. The Mariner could see death like fires dancing. The water burnt green, blue and white like a witch's oils.

► The Old Mariner Gets Albatross Round His Neck

The sailors saw in dreams a spirit plaguing them. It followed them nine fathom under the sea. They felt under the spell of a curse. Their throats became dry and choked. They stared at the ancient Mariner with 'evil looks'. They held him responsible for killing such an innocent and auspicious bird. The old Mariner got the due punishment. Instead of the holy cross, the dead albatross was hung around his neck.

► कठिन परिस्थिति

तेज धूप थी। मौसम, ताँबे की तरह लाल गर्म था। जहाज एक बिंदु पर फँस कर खड़ा हो गया और उसने आगे बढ़ने से इन्कार कर दिया। वह एक निश्चल (निठल्ले) जहाज की तरह दिखायी देता था जो एक पेंट किये हुए सागर के ऊपर खड़ा था।

► नाविक अभिशाप के प्रभाव में

कई दिनों तक वे फँसे खड़े रहे और बिल्कुल भी नहीं हिले। पानी चारों ओर था लेकिन उनके पास पीने योग्य पानी एक बूँद भी नहीं था। समुद्र सड़ गया और उबलने को था। नाविकों ने मौतप्राय अग्नियों को नाचते देखा। पानी एक चुड़ैल (डायन) के तेलों की तरह हरे, नीले और सफेद रंगों में जलने लगा।

► बूढ़े नाविक के चारों ओर Albatross डाल दिया जाता है

नाविकों ने स्वप्नों में एक (प्रेत) आत्मा को उन्हें पीड़ित करते देखा। वह समुद्र में नौ फैदम (fathom) गहराई से उनका पीछा कर रही थी। उन्होंने स्वयं को एक अभिशाप के प्रभाव में पाया। उनके गले सूखे और अवरुद्ध हो गये थे। उन्होंने बूढ़े नाविक की ओर 'बुरी नजरों' से देखा। उन्होंने एक ऐसे निर्दोष और भाग्यवान पक्षी को मारने के लिए उसे जिम्मेदार ठहराया। बूढ़े नाविक को उचित सजा मिली। पवित्र क्रॉस के चिन्ह की जगह मरे हुए Albatross को उसकी गर्दन के चारों ओर लटका दिया गया।

PARAPHRASE OF THE POEM

21. The Sun now rose upon the right:
Out of the sea came he,
Still hid in mist, and on the left
Went down into the sea.

(Lines 83–86)

Word-Meaning: Went down—set, छुप गया।

► **हिन्दी अनुवाद :** अब सूर्य पूर्व दिशा में उठा। वह समुद्र से बाहर की ओर निकला। अभी भी वह धुंध में छुपा हुआ था। और बायीं ओर वह फिर समुद्र में लुप्त हो (छुप) गया।

► **Paraphrase.** The sun now rose up from the left. It appeared to come out from the sea. Still it was hidden in the mist. And then it went into the sea again in the left direction.

22. And the good south wind still blew behind.
But no sweet bird did follow.
Nor any day for food or play
Came to the mariners' hollo!

(Lines 87–90)

Word-Meaning: **Hollo**—call, पुकार।

► **हिन्दी अनुवाद :** अभी भी पीछे से दक्षिणी अच्छी हवा बह रही थी। लेकिन कोई भी प्यारा सा पक्षी जहाज के पीछे नहीं आया। न ही किसी दिन भोजन या खेल के लिए वह नाविकों की पुकार पर वहाँ आया।

► **Paraphrase.** The good south wind still blew behind the ship. But no sweet sea-bird followed them. It didn't come for food or for play any day at the call of the mariners.

23. And I had done a hellish thing.
And it would work 'em woe:
For all averred, I had killed the bird
That made the breeze to blow.
Ah wretch! said they, the bird to slay,
That made the breeze to blow!

(Lines 91-96)

Word-Meaning: **Hellish**—evil, बुरी। **Woe**—great unhappiness and sorrow, बहुत अप्रसन्नता और अफसोस। **Averred**—said firmly, मजबूती/जोर से कहा। **Wretch**—unfortunate, wicked, अभागा, दुष्ट।

► **हिन्दी अनुवाद :** और उन्होंने (नाविकों ने) कहा कि मैंने बहुत ही बुरी चीज कर डाली थी। और यह उन्हें अप्रसन्नता और अफसोस लायेगी। सभी ने जोर से कहा कि मैंने उस पक्षी को मार डाला जिसने हवा को चलवाया था। आह! अभागे! दुष्ट! उन्होंने कहा। तुमने ऐसे पक्षी को मार डाला जिसने हवा को चलवा दिया था।

► **Paraphrase.** The sailors told the ancient Mariner that he had done a hellish thing. This act would bring unhappiness and sorrow to all of them. They strongly felt that he had killed the bird that made the breeze to blow. They called him an unfortunate person. He killed the bird that brought a good south wind from behind the ship.

24. Nor dim nor red, like God's own head,
The glorious Sun uprist:
Then all averred, I had killed the bird
That brought the fog and mist.
'Twas right, said they, such birds to slay,
That bring the fog and mist.

(Lines 97-102)

Word-Meaning: **Dim**—not bright, मंदा। **Uprist**—rose up, ऊपर चढ़ा। **Averred**—said firmly, जोर देकर कहा। **Slay**—kill, मारना।

► **हिन्दी अनुवाद :** न तो मंदा और न लाल स्वयं ईश्वर के सिर जैसा, शानदार सूर्य ऊपर की ओर चढ़ने लगा। फिर सब ने जोर देकर कहा कि मैंने ऐसे पक्षी को मारा था जो धुंध और कोहरा साथ लाया था। उन्होंने कहा कि ऐसे पक्षी को मारना जो अपने साथ कोहरा और धुंध लाया था, एक ठीक काम था।

► **Paraphrase.** The sun was neither dim nor red. It looked like the God's own head. The glorious sun rose in the sky. All said firmly that the old Mariner had killed the bird that brought fog and mist with it. They said that it was right to kill a bird that brought fog and mist with it.

25. The fair breeze blew, the white foam flew,
The furrow followed free;
We were the first that ever burst
Into that silent sea.

(Lines 113-116)

Word-Meaning: **Foam**—froth, झाग। **Furrow**—deep lines or grooves formed behind the ship, जहाज के पीछे की लकीरें।

► **हिन्दी अनुवाद :** सुन्दर हवा चली। सफेद झाग उड़ने लगा। जहाज के पीछे लीकें स्वतंत्र रूप से बन रही थीं। हम पहले लोग थे जो उस शांत समुद्र में (धमक) आये थे।

► **Paraphrase.** The sweet wind blew and the white foam flew in the air. The deep lines (furrows) were being made freely behind the ship. The sailors were the first ever to enter that silent sea.

26. Down dropt the breeze, the sails dropt down.
’Twas sad as sad could be:
And we did speak only to break
The silence of the sea!

(Lines 117–120)

Word-Meaning: **Dropt**—dropped, गिर गयी। **Breeze**—cool wind, ठण्डी हवा।

► **हिन्दी अनुवाद :** हवा बहनी बंद हो गयी। पालें गिरा दी गयीं। इतनी उदासी छाई हुई थी जितनी छा सकती थी। और हम एक-दूसरे से केवल समुद्र की नीरवता को भंग करने के लिए बात करते थे।

► **Paraphrase.** The breeze stopped blowing. The sails of the ship were dropped down. They were as sad as they could ever be. They didn’t speak. They spoke to each other only to break the silence of the sea.

27. All in a hot and copper sky,
The bloody Sun, at noon.
Right up above the mast did stand,
No bigger than the moon.

(Lines 121–124)

Word-Meaning: **Bloody**—the red hot, गर्म, लाल खून जैसा।

► **हिन्दी अनुवाद :** उस तपते हुए ताम्बे जैसे रंग के आकाश में लाल खून जैसा दिखने वाला सूर्य, दोपहर को ठीक मस्तूल के ऊपर खड़ा था। वह उस समय चन्द्रमा से बड़ा दिखायी नहीं दे रहा था।

► **Paraphrase.** The sun was burning at noon and looked red like the colour of the blood. The sky had become hot like copper. At noon, the sun stood just over the mast. It didn’t appear bigger than the moon.

28. Day after day, day after day,
We stuck, nor breath nor motion;
As idle as a painted ship
Upon a painted ocean.

(Lines 125–128)

Word-Meaning: **Stuck**—became trapped and immobile, फँस गये (एक जगह)। **Idle**—(here) not moving, निठल्ला, बिना हरकत के।

► **हिन्दी अनुवाद :** दिन प्रति-दिन, दिन प्रति-दिन, हम एक ही जगह फँस कर रह गये। न तो सांस आ रही थी और न ही हम गतिमान थे। हम और हमारा जहाज ऐसा निठल्ला (बिना चाल के) लगता था जैसे कि एक पेंट किया हुआ जहाज एक पेंट किये हुए (बिना हलचल के) समुद्र पर खड़ा हो।

► **Paraphrase.** Day after day, day after day, there was no movement of the ship. They were stuck at one place. They didn’t breathe or make any motion. Their immobile ship didn’t look like a real ship. It looked like a painted ship. So did the ocean look. It had no movement of waves but looked like a painted ocean.

29. Water, water every where,
And all the boards did shrink;
Water, water, every where,
Nor any drop to drink.

(Lines 129–132)

Word-Meaning: Shrink—became short, सिकुड़ गये।

► **हिन्दी अनुवाद :** पानी, पानी हर जगह था। और जहाज के सारे फट्टे सिकुड़ गये। पानी ही पानी, सारी ओर था, परन्तु पीने के लिए एक बूँद भी पानी नहीं था।

► **Paraphrase.** Around the ship, there was water all around. But the boards of the ship got shrunk. Water and water was everywhere but the sailors had not a drop to drink. It means water around was not drinkable. They were helpless and thirsty.

30. The very deep did rot: O Christ!
That ever this should be!
Yea, slimy things did crawl with legs
Upon the slimy sea.

(Lines 133–136)

Word-Meaning: Deep—Ocean, महासागर। **Rot**—started, rotting, सड़ने लगा। **Slimy**—muddy, sticky, कीचड़दार, लसदार। **Crawl**—walk slowly, creep, रेंगना।

► **हिन्दी अनुवाद :** सारा का सारा गहरा समुद्र ही सड़ गया। हे ईसा मसीह। क्या कभी यह सोचा भी था कि ऐसा बुरा हमारे साथ घटेगा। हाँ कीचड़ में रहने वाले जीव पैरों पर उस लसदार/कीचड़ से भरे समुद्र में रेंग रहे थे।

► **Paraphrase.** The very ocean started rotting. O Christ! That such a situation would ever come was never even imagined by anyone. It was horrible to see the muddy creatures crawling on their legs on the slimy sea.

31. About, about, in reel and rout
The death-fires danced at night:
The water, like a witch's oils,
Burnt green, and blue and white.

(Lines 137–140)

Word-Meaning: About, about—here and there, यहाँ-वहाँ। **Reel and rout**—types of dance, नाच की किस्में। **Witch**—hag, डायन।

► **हिन्दी अनुवाद :** आगे, पीछे, भिन्न-भिन्न नृत्य मुद्राओं में मौत रूपी आग रात भर नाचती रही। पानी हरे, नीले और सफेद रंगों में इस प्रकार जलने लगा जैसे एक डायन के तेल जला करते हैं।

► **Paraphrase.** Here and there and everywhere, the death fires danced all night in different dance forms. The water was burning in green, blue and white colours as the oils of a witch burn.

32. And some in dreams assured were
Of the Spirit that plagued us so:
Nine fathom deep he had followed us
From the land of mist and snow.

(Lines 141–144)

Word-Meaning: Plagued—troubled, tortured, सताती थी। **Fathom**—a measurement of depth, गहराई मापने की इकाई।

► **हिन्दी अनुवाद :** कुछ नाविकों को स्वप्नों में विश्वास था कि कोई प्रेतात्मा उनको सता या उत्पीड़न कर रही थी। वह Albatross की प्रेतात्मा है और नौ फैदम गहराई से हमारा पीछा कर रही थी। वह धुंध और बर्फीले प्रदेश से आती हुई हमारा पीछा कर रही थी।

► **Paraphrase.** Some sailors were sure that in their dreams they saw a spirit plaguing and troubling them. It followed them from the land of mist and snow. It followed them from nine fathom deep in the sea.

33. And every tongue, through utter drought
Was withered at the root,
We could not speak, no more than if
We had been choked with soot. (Lines 145–148)

Word-Meaning: **Utter**—complete, पूर्ण। **Drought**—dry, सूखा। **Withered**—Faded, कुम्हला गयी थी।
Choked—blocked, suffocated, अवरुद्ध हो गयी थी। **Soot**—black powder, कालिख।

► **हिन्दी अनुवाद :** और हर (नाविक की) जुबान, बिल्कुल सूख जाने से, अपनी जड़ से कुम्हला गयी थी। हम बोल नहीं सके क्योंकि ऐसा प्रतीत हो रहा था जैसे हमारे हलक (गले) काले पाऊडर या कोयले की धूल से अवरुद्ध हो गये हों।

► **Paraphrase.** The tongue of the sailors had become completely dry and 'faded' at the root. They couldn't speak because they felt as if their throats were blocked and suffocated with black soot.

34. Ah! well a day, what evil looks
Had I from old and young!
Instead of the cross, the Albatross
About my neck was hung. (Lines 149–152)

Word-Meaning: **Well a day**—Oh! what a (bad) day, कितना खराब दिन।

► **हिन्दी अनुवाद :** आह! कितना खराब दिन। मुझे वृद्ध और युवाओं की कितनी बुरी नजरें सहन करनी पड़ीं। मेरे गले के चारों ओर पवित्र क्रॉस की जगह मरे हुए Albatross को टाँग दिया गया।

► **Paraphrase.** Ah! What a bad day! The old sailor had to face evil looks from the old and the young alike. He was punished for killing the innocent bird. Instead of the holy cross, the dead albatross was hung around his neck.

REFERENCE TO CONTEXT

Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow:

1. And the good south wind still blew behind,
But no sweet bird did follow,
Nor any day for food or play
Came to the mariners' hollo! (Page 119)

Questions

- (a) Why did no 'sweet bird follow' them?
(b) Why was the 'south wind' called 'good' ?
(c) What is the opposite of 'front' in the passage?

Answers

- (a) No sweet bird did follow them because the ancient Mariner had killed the bird.
(b) It was called so because it helped the ship to sail smoothly.
(c) behind

2. And I had done a hellish thing,
And it would work 'em woe:
For all averred, I had killed the bird
That made the breeze to blow.
Ah wretch! said they, the bird to slay,
That made the breeze to blow! (Pages 119–120)

Questions

- (a) What hellish thing had the Mariner done?
- (b) Give meaning of 'it would work 'em woe'.
- (c) What is the opposite of 'heavenly' in the passage?

Answers

- (a) The ancient Mariner had killed the albatross with his cross-bow.
- (b) It means it would bring unhappiness and sorrow for them.
- (c) hellish

3. Nor dim nor red, like God's own head,
The glorious sun uprist:
Then all averred, I had killed the bird
That brought the fog and mist.
'Twas right, said they, such birds to slay,
That bring the fog and mist.

(Page 120)

Questions

- (a) Note the poetic device used in the first line.
- (b) What did they all aver?
- (c) What is the synonym of the word 'grand' in the passage?

Answers

- (a) The poetic device used here is 'simile'.
- (b) He had killed the albatross that brought the fog and mist.
- (c) glorious

4. Down dropt the breeze, the sails dropt down,
'Twas sad as sad could be;
And we did speak only to break
The silence of the sea!

(Page 120)

Questions

- (a) Why did the sails dropp down?
- (b) Note the poetic device used in the first two lines.
- (c) What is the opposite of 'noise' in the passage?

Answers

- (a) The sails dropped down because the wind had dropped down.
- (b) It is 'repetition'.
- (c) silence

5. All in a hot and copper sky,
The bloody sun, at noon,
Right up above the mast did stand,
No bigger than the moon.

(Page 120)

Questions

- (a) Why was the sky 'hot' and 'copper'?
- (b) Give meaning of 'The bloody sun'?
- (c) What is the opposite of 'sit' in the passage?

Answers

- (a) The sky was 'hot' and 'copper' due to the heat of the sun at noon the sky became red hot like copper.
- (b) It means that at noon the red hot sun had assumed the redness of the blood.
- (c) stand

6. Day after day, day after day,
We stuck, nor breath nor motion;
As idle as a painted ship
Upon a painted ocean.

(Page 120)

Questions

- (a) Describe the poetic device used in the first line.
- (b) What is the poetic device in the expression 'a painted ship'? What does it show?
- (c) What is the word for 'not moving at all' in the passage?

Answers

- (a) It is 'repetition'.
- (b) It is a metaphor. It shows immobility of the ship.
- (c) stuck

7. Water, water every where,
And all the boards did shrink;
Water, water, every where,
Nor any drop to drink.

(Page 120)

Questions

- (a) What is the poetic device used in the stanza?
- (b) Why was not any drop to drink?
- (c) What is the opposite of the word 'expand' in the passage?

Answers

- (a) It is 'repetition'.
- (b) The sea water was everywhere but they couldn't drink even a drop of it.
- (c) shrink

8. The very deep did rot: O Christ!
That ever this should be!
Yea, slimy things did crawl with legs
Upon the slimy sea.

(Page 120)

Questions

- (a) Give meaning of the phrase 'very deep'.
- (b) Note the poetic device used in 'slimy sea'.
- (c) What is the synonym for 'walk on knees slowly' in the passage?

Answers

- (a) It means very deep ocean.
- (b) It is 'alliteration'.
- (c) crawl

9. About, about, in reel and rout
The death-fires danced at night;
The water, like a witch's oils,
Burnt green, and blue, and white.

(Page 121)

Questions

- (a) What is the meaning of 'reel and rout' here?
- (b) What is the poetic device used in the third line?
- (c) What is the opposite of 'death' in the passage?

Answers

- (a) It means swaying and dancing.
- (b) It is 'simile'.
- (c) life

10. And every tongue, through utter drought,
Was withered at the root;
We could not speak, no more than if
We had been choked with soot.

(Page 121)

Questions

- (a) How did every tongue appear to be?
- (b) Why couldn't "we" speak?
- (c) What is the synonym of the word 'speak' in the passage?

Answers

- (a) It appeared to be withered at the root.
- (b) It happened so because we had been choked.
- (c) utter

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

(Page 121)

Questions

- (a) Who is an Albatross?
- (b) What did the Mariner get?
- (c) What is the antonym of the word 'noble' in the passage?

Answers

- (a) The Albatross is a white big sea bird with big wings.
- (b) He got evil looks from 'old and young'.
- (c) evil

QUESTIONS FROM TEXTBOOK SOLVED

11. Answer the following questions briefly:

- (a) In which direction did the ship start moving? How can you say?
- (b) Why does the Mariner say that 'no sweet bird did follow'?
- (c) How did the other mariners behave towards the Ancient Mariner at first? How many times did they change their mind about the Ancient Mariner? What does this tell us about their character?
- (d) How did the sailing conditions change after the ship had moved out of the land of mist and snow? What or who did the mariners blame for this change?
- (e) What is indicated by the line 'The bloody sun, at noon,/Right up above the mast did stand,/No bigger than the moon'?
- (f) How does the Mariner describe the fact that they were completely motionless in the middle of the sea?
- (g) What is the irony in the ninth stanza? Explain it in your own words.
- (h) What is the narrator trying to convey through the description of the situation in the tenth and eleventh stanza?

- (i) What or who did the mariners feel was responsible for their suffering?
- (j) Describe the condition of the mariners as expressed in the thirteenth stanza.
- (k) Why did the mariners hang the albatross around the neck of the Ancient Mariner?

Ans.

- (a) The ship started moving in the southern direction. There is a clear indication in the 87th line: 'And the good south wind still blew behind'. So, there is no doubt that the ship was moving towards the south before entering the silent sea.
- (b) The old Mariner killed the innocent and auspicious albatross in a senseless fit or rush of blood. The good south wind still blew behind. But no 'sweet bird' followed the ship and the mariners. It didn't come either for food or play to the mariners' call. The ship was heading towards the silent sea where it will be stuck in the middle of the sea.
- (c) At first, the mariners condemned the terrible act of killing the innocent and auspicious bird, the albatross. They considered that killing of such a lucky bird that caused the breeze to blow was a sin. It would bring woe and despair to them. They changed their stand and soon they started justifying the killing of the bird that brought mist and snow. It tells only their fickle-mindedness.
- (d) The sailing conditions changed after the ship had moved out of the land of mist and snow. At first, 'the good south wind still blew behind.' But no sweet bird followed the ship for food or play at the call of the mariners. The mariners blamed the ancient Mariner. He had done 'a hellish thing' by killing the auspicious and innocent albatross. They blamed him for bringing woes and troubles to them.
- (e) The line 'bloody sun at noon' indicates the fury and heat of the sun at noon-time. At noon the sun looks red like the colour of blood. At noon time the sun came up above the mast. At that time it was not big ball as it appears in the morning or at the time of its setting. At noon the sun was not bigger than the moon.
- (f) The ancient Mariner describes that when the ship entered the silent sea there started a period of stagnation. They were completely motionless in the middle of the sea. The ship was stuck and didn't move at all. It looked like an immobile painted ship. Similarly, there was no movement in the sea or in the waves. The sea itself appeared totally motionless like a painted sea.
- (g) The lines of the ninth stanza reflect the irony of the situation. The poet uses the 'alliteration' and 'repetition' very effectively. 'Water, water everywhere, Nor any drop to drink.' Really the condition of the mariners was very pathetic. Ironically, water was all around but they had not even a drop of water that they could drink and wet their throats. Naturally, they couldn't drink the sea water which was not suitable for drinking.
- (h) In the tenth stanza, the poet is presenting a picture of decay and rot. This decay and rot was not confined to the surface only but went to the 'very deep' of the ocean. Slimy thing at crawled upon the muddy and sticky sea. In the eleventh stanza, the poet introduces the supernatural in the poem. 'The death fires danced at night'. The water burnt green, blue and white 'like a witch's oils'.
- (i) All the mariners 'old and young' were assured in their dreams that the spirit of the killed albatross plagued and troubled them. The spirit was following them

from the land of mist and snow. It was nine fathom deep in the sea. It was responsible for all their troubles and woes. It was the spirit of the albatross who was killed by the ancient Mariner in a senseless fit of madness.

- (j) In the thirteenth stanza, the narrator presents the helpless condition of the mariners. Since there was no water to drink, many of them got sick and died. The utter drought around them made their life miserable.
- (k) The mariners hung the dead albatross around the neck of the Ancient Mariner to punish him. It will keep on reminding him all the time about the wrong he had done.

12. Like part one, the second part also has a number of literary devices. List them out in the same way as you had done in question number eight and explain them.

Ans.	Literary Devices	Explanation
	1. Repetition It was sad as sad could be	The situation was as dismal as it could be.
	2. Repetition	After every day Day after day, day after day.
	3. Simile As idle as a painted ship	The ship was totally immovable and idle like a painted ship
	4. Metaphor A painted ocean	The ocean was motionless. There was no movement. It appeared like a painted ocean.
	5. Hyperbole The very deep did rot	Even the very deep or the bottom of the ocean was rotting
	6. Metaphor The bloody sun at noon	The sun became red hot at noon
	7. Alliteration Nor any drop to drink	There was not even a drop of water for drinking.

13. What is the rhyme scheme of the poem?

Ans. The rhyme scheme of the poem in most of the stanzas of four lines each is: *ab cb*, whereas in stanzas of six lines it is: *aba bcb* or *aac bcb*.

14. Find examples of the use of interesting sounds from the poem and explain their effect on the reader.

1. The ice 'cracked and growled, and roared and howled'	Coleridge uses onomatopoeic words which use harsh 'ck' sounds to make the ice sound brutal. He also gives the ice animal sounds to give the impression it has come alive and is attacking the ship.

Ans.	2. The ship was 'cheered', the harbour 'cleared'.	The sound 'red' is used to make the movement more emphatic.
	3. The breeze blew, the white foam flew.	The quick motion of the blowing of the breeze and the flying of the white foam is emphasised by 'lew' sound.

15. The poem is full of strange, uncanny or supernatural elements. Discuss how these elements appear in the poem. You should consider:

- the strange weather;
- the albatross as a bird of “good omen”
- the spirit from “the land of mist and snow”
- the strange slimy creatures seen in the sea
- the ocean appearing to rot
- the death fires and sea water being referred to as witch’s oil

Now write a paragraph about the supernatural elements in the poem and how they add to the events that take place in the poem.

Ans. ‘The Rime of the Ancient Mariner’ is a ballad in the classical tradition. The poem is set more in the mediaeval background than in the modern contexts. The old Mariner with his long grey beard glittering eyes and skinny hands looks ‘ancient’. Like the Mariner, his tale is also ‘ancient’. It is based on the old Christian theme of sin, revenge and repentance.

First came the ‘tyrannous’ storm-blast that stuck the ship and the sailors with its overtaking wings. Then came the land of mist or snow where ice roared and howled like noises in a swoon. The ship came to a region where there was no sign of ‘men or beasts’. The arrival of the auspicious albatross was hailed in ‘God’s name’. The killing of the innocent bird brought curses and miseries for the sailors.

Coleridge had to create a suitable atmosphere for a tale based on the Christian concept of sin, revenge and repentance. The atmosphere was made ‘sad as sad could be’. They were ‘stuck’ in the middle of the ocean. Nor breath nor motion could be felt. Only a ‘painted ship’ was stuck on a painted ocean. A curse followed. The ‘very deep did rot’. Strange slimy things crawled with legs ‘upon the slimy sea’ And then there followed death fires dancing at night. Even the sea-water started burning like a ‘witch’s oils’ green, blue or white. The mariners were assured that the spirit that plagued them had been following them from ‘the land of mist and snow’. Thus Coleridge makes the poem full of supernatural elements.

16. Every ship is supposed to have a *log book*, which is filled in every day by the captain. If he dies, the next senior officer fills it in (usually the First Mate). Decide on appropriate dates (the Mariner’s tale was supposed to be thought of as already very old when the poem was published: it should be no later than about 1700 AD; other clues to the date are the light-house and the Mariner’s crossbow). If you wish you can make the log look old by staining the pages, by your handwriting and spelling. Write a series of entries for the log for the important events that take place in the ship as recorded in the poem. The first one has been done as an example:

1701 AD

Today we left the shore at 3.30 p.m. under glorious sailing conditions. We have 230 men on board. We are sailing with cargo towards Portugal. The journey is expected to take 90 days. We are well stocked with food and water to last us 250 days in case of any emergency. Hopefully we will not face any untoward happenings. God be with us!

You could also do this as an oral activity, recording the entries on audio tape and using voice effects and other sound effects if you can.

Ans. For Classroom Activity.

17. Performing the poem

The is very dramatic poem, excellent for reading aloud or even dramatising it. The class could be divided into groups and given the different dramatic moments from the poem to be performed as follows :

- the first storm that they encounter
- the time spent in the land of mist and snow
- the coming of the albatross and the subsequent events till they move out
- the killing of the albatross till they reach the silent seas
- the suffering of the sailors in the hot region till they hang the albatross around the Ancient Mariner's neck.

Ans. For Classroom Activity.

18. The poem has seven parts to it. The class could be divided into five groups and each group be asked to read one part of the remaining poem. Each group would then have to report their findings. The report can be made interesting with illustrations/power point presentations. Help could be taken from the following websites:

www.online-literature.com/coleridge/646/
[www.gradesaver.com/the-rime-of-the-ancient-Mariner/
text.virginia.edu/toc/modeng/public/Col2Mar.html](http://www.gradesaver.com/the-rime-of-the-ancient-Mariner/text.virginia.edu/toc/modeng/public/Col2Mar.html)
www.enotes.com/rime-ancient-Mariner-text

Ans. For Classroom Activity.

19. In your groups discuss the following:

- (i) Why did the Ancient Mariner stop the particular wedding guest to listen to his tale?
- (ii) Why did he have to tell his tale to someone?
- (iii) What is the poet trying to convey through this poem?

Ans. (i) Group I : Why did the ancient Mariner stop the particular wedding guest to listen to his tale?

Group II : Yes, there were three wedding-guests but he picked up that particular one who was closely related to the bridegroom.

Group I : Perhaps he knew that he could make him listen to his tale.

Group II : Perhaps he out of the three was more under the spell of his glittering eyes than the other two.

Group I : Perhaps he was overawed and had no option but to listen to his tale like a three-year old child.

- (ii) Group I : Why did the Mariner have to tell his tale to someone?

Group II : The old Mariner had killed an innocent bird, the albatross.

Group I : The bird had proved so lucky to the ship and the sailors. It had brought a favourable southern wind.

Group II : The old Mariner took his cross-bow and killed the albatross. The bird hung around his neck like a curse.

Group I : The Mariner was filled with remorse and guilt. He wanted to lighten his burden.

Group II : He needed someone before whom he could open out his heart and confess that he had done a terrible thing.

- (iii) Group I : What is the poet trying to convey through this poem?

Group II : Coleridge is trying to say that killing of an innocent bird like the Albatross was a terrible act against Christian values and humanity at large.

- Group I : Even the evil act done in a sudden fit of madness brings evil results?
 Group II : His guilty consciousness torments the ancient Mariner constantly.
 Group I : He is never free from that sense of guilt and the sin of killing the innocent bird. The albatross hangs around his neck like a curse.

MORE QUESTIONS SOLVED

PART I & II

I. SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS (30–40 Words)

Q1. Sharing his grief with the Wedding-Guest helps alleviate the pain of the ancient Mariner. Justify.

Ans. The killing of the innocent and auspicious bird was definitely a moral sin. There was no reason whatsoever for killing such a friendly and playful bird. He had brought a favourable south wind for the sailors. The burden of sin and guilt is too heavy to bear for the old Mariner. He wants to lighten up his burden. He is desperately in need of a person who could listen to his story. So he catches hold of one of the three wedding-guests.

Q2. What were the sufferings that the mariners had to undergo after the albatross was killed? [V. Imp.]

Ans. The killing of the innocent and auspicious bird brought a great deal of sufferings to all the mariners. The bird had brought a favourable south wind. After his death, the ship was stuck in the silent sea. The wind stopped blowing. The ship refused to move and was stuck at one point. The ocean seemed to be boiling and the water burnt like a witch's oils. In their dreams they saw a spirit following them to avenge the death of the albatross.

Q3. What were the blessings which the mariners experienced when the Albatross arrived on the ship?

Ans. The Albatross proved to be a lucky charm for the mariners. Before its arrival the ship was surrounded by the huge icebergs high up to the mast. The arrival of the bird proved auspicious. The icebergs cracked and split. The helmsman was able to steer the ship through. The Albatross brought a favourable south wind with it. The mariners hailed him as a 'Christian Soul'.

Q4. Describe the role of the Wedding-Guest in the poem 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner'. [V. Imp.]

Ans. The role of the Wedding-Guest adds to a touch of reality in the poem. He comes from a world that is totally different from the world of the ancient Mariner. The world of the Mariner is really 'ancient'. The Wedding-Guest lives in the immediate present. He is going to attend a wedding party. He is in a hurry and has no time for the tale of the old Mariner. However, the bright-eyed Mariner keeps him under his spell. The Wedding-Guest has no choice but listen to the old Mariner's tale like a child.

Q5. How did the voyage begin? Contrast the beginning of the voyage with the later miseries and troubles that the sailors had to face. [Imp.]

Ans. The voyage began with celebrations and lot of hope and warmth. The ship was cheered and given a warm send off from the harbour. The weather was fine and bright. No one could even imagine that they were in for untold sufferings. The killing of the albatross put the ship and the sailors under a curse. The ship got stuck at one place. The wind stopped. The sky became red hot and the sailors had

not even a drop of water to drink. A spirit seemed to plague them to avenge the death of the Mariner.

Q6. Describe the arrival of albatross and the reaction of the mariners.

Ans. The ship and the sailors seemed to be in a very hopeless situation. The ship was surrounded by huge icebergs. Everyone felt sad and unhappy. Then came the albatross. Its arrival was hailed by the mariners. It was an auspicious bird as it brought a favourable south wind with it. Then the ice cracked and split. The helmsman was able to steer the ship clear through. The mariners gave the albatross food and played with it.

Q7. Describe the sufferings undergone by the mariners in the silent sea. [V. Imp.]

Ans. The mariners faced untold sufferings when the ship entered the silent sea. The auspicious bird, albatross was killed. The sailors were now under a curse. The wind stopped blowing. The sun became 'bloody' hot and the sky became red like copper. Water was all around but the sailors did not have even a drop to drink. The ship got stuck at one point and refused to move ahead. It looked like a painted ship on a painted ocean. It presented a picture of decay and stagnation.

Q8. What impression do you form of the Ancient Mariner from the poem 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner'? [V. Imp.]

Ans. The ancient Mariner really looks 'ancient'—a man of a different world. His overflowing grey beard, skinny hands and glittering eyes make him a highly imposing, abnormal and crazy character. His sense of guilt and its burden leads him to share his grief with someone. He detains one of the three Wedding-Guests and wants to tell him his tale. The dead albatross is hung around his neck instead of the holy cross. He wants to unburden his grief by telling his tale to the Wedding-Guest.

Q9. Describe the behaviour of the sailors in the poem 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner'.

Ans. The sailors play an important role in 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner'. They are fickle-minded. They change their views according to the situations they are in. They condemned the ancient Mariner for killing the albatross. The innocent and auspicious bird had brought a favourable south wind for them. His arrival proved lucky as the icebergs cracked and the ship was steered through. However, soon they started justifying the killing of the albatross. The bird had brought the mist and the snow. They are fickle-minded and hollow.

Q10. Assess S.T. Coleridge's poem 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner' as a ballad. [Imp.]

Ans. A ballad is a long narrative poem. It was generally sung with the help of musical instruments. Most of the ballads tell romantic tales of the old world. The theme is romantic. Coleridge's ballad is based on the old Christian theme of sin, revenge and repentance. The killing of the albatross—a 'Christian Soul' brings sufferings and woes to the mariners. An atmosphere of mediaevalism runs through the poem. Archaic words like 'kirk' and 'kin' add to its old beauty. The rhyme scheme *abcb* in the four-line stanzas and *aba bcb* or *aac bcb* in six-line stanzas gives the desired musical effects.

Q11. How does the old Mariner stop the unwilling and reluctant Wedding-Guest and make him listen to his tale like a child?

Ans. The Wedding-Guest comes from a world that is totally different from the world of the old Mariner. The world of the Mariner is really ancient but the Wedding-Guest lives in the immediate present. He is going to attend a wedding party. He is in a hurry and has no time for the tale of the Mariner. But the bright-eyed Mariner keeps him under his spell. He makes him helpless like a 'three years' child'. The Wedding-Guest has no choice but listen to the old Mariner's tale.

Q12. Describe the reaction shown by the Wedding-Guest when he was stopped by the ancient Mariner. Why did he beat his breast?

Ans. The helpless Wedding-Guest was completely under the spell of the glittering-eyed Mariner. He was held by the skinny hands and made to listen to the old Mariner's tale like a 'three years' child. 'He couldn't choose but hear'. He could only beat his breast in despair in such a helpless situation.

Q13. Describe the weather and the sun at the beginning of the journey.

Ans. At the beginning of the journey the weather was quite pleasant. The voyage began with celebrations, hope and warmth. The weather was fine and bright. The 'sun came up from the left' and it appeared to be coming 'out of the sea'. It 'shone bright and on the right went down into the sea'. This weather was quite in contrast with the hostile weather that was to follow it.

Q14. Describe the storm-blast and its effect on the ship.

Ans. The first hostile encounter that the ship faced was the arrival of the 'storm-blast'. It was 'tyrannous and strong'. The storm was in full fury and struck the ship with its 'overtaking wings'. It chased the ship southwards 'with yell and blow'. The ship drove fast with 'sloping masts and dipping prow' chased by a deadly 'foe'.

Q15. What happened when the ship reached the land of mist and snow?

Ans. Chased by the loud roars and cries of the storm-blast, the ship fled southwards and entered a region of both mist and snow. It grew 'wonderous cold'. The ice, mast-high, came floating by. It was as green as emerald. There was no sign of men or beasts all around. 'The ice was all between'.

Q16. How did the Mariner and sailors feel when 'the ice was all around'?

Ans. The ship entered a region where there was both mist and snow. It grew 'wonderous cold'. Ice, mast-high, was floating on the water. The sailors could see neither men nor beasts anywhere in that region. Wherever their eyes went, they could see ice all around. Ice cracked making a roaring and howling sound. The sailors found themselves in a lifeless, very hostile and utterly cold region.

Q17. Describe the arrival of the albatross. Why did they hail its arrival in God's name?

Ans. The ship and the mariners were in a hopeless situation. The ship was surrounded by huge icebergs which blocked its movement. The arrival of the albatross was hailed by the mariners. The auspicious bird brought a favourable south wind for the ship. Even the helmsman was able to steer the ship clear through the icebergs. The mariners hailed the arrival in God's name as it was a symbol of life and warmth.

Q18. Describe how the albatross mixed up with the sailors of the ship.

Ans. Before the arrival of the albatross, the ship was in a region where there was no sign of life. Neither men nor animals could be seen there. The arrival of the albatross was a welcome change. They welcomed the bird in God's name. They shared food with the bird. The albatross also followed them for food or for play. This warmth and excitement continued till the bird was abruptly killed by the ancient Mariner.

Q19. Why did the Wedding-guests ask, "Why look'st thou so?" What really plagued the ancient Mariner?

Ans. The curse of killing the innocent and auspicious bird, the albatross never left the ancient Mariner in peace. The albatross hung around his neck all the times reminding him of his sin. So the signs of distress were clearly visible on the old Mariner's face. The Wedding-Guest felt as if some 'fiends' were plaguing him. Ultimately, the old Mariner revealed what was troubling him. The terrible act of killing the albatross lay heavy on his mind and heart.

Q20. What was the terrible deed done by the old Mariner? Why was it terrible?

Ans. The killing of the albatross was really a terrible act committed by the ancient Mariner. The killing of such an auspicious and innocent bird who was hailed as a 'Christian Soul' in God's name was a crime. It defied natural justice. It seems that a senseless rush of blood overpowered the ancient Mariner. He killed the lucky bird that had brought a favourable south wind for the mariners.

Q21. Why did the old Mariner say that 'no sweet bird did follow'?

Ans. The albatross came at a time when the ship and the mariners were stuck among the ice-bergs. The sweet bird came as a Christian soul. It brought a favourable south wind with it. The ship cleared through the ice-bergs. It was a symbol of life and warmth in a region where there were no signs of men or animals. But after the auspicious bird was killed by a senseless rush of blood that overpowered the old Mariner, things changed. Things suddenly headed towards stagnation and decay on a silent sea. No 'sweet' bird followed the ship now.

Q22. What did the mariners say just after the albatross was killed?

Ans. All the mariners reacted vehemently after the auspicious and innocent bird, the albatross was killed by the ancient Mariner. All said firmly that the old Mariner killed the bird 'that made the breeze to blow'. "Ah wretch!" said they. They condemned this terrible act of the old Mariner with one voice.

Q23. Why did the sailors change their stand regarding the killing of the albatross? What does it tell about their character? [V. Imp.]

Ans. After condemning the ancient Mariner for killing the innocent and auspicious bird, the mariners completely changed their stand. Now they supported the old Mariner because the albatross had brought fog and mist. They justified his act of killing such a bird. Their shifting stand shows that the mariners were fickle-minded. They had no ideology or strength of conviction.

Q24. Why was the sun 'bloody' at noon? Describe the movements of the sun when they entered the silent sea. [Imp.]

Ans. Things changed when the ship entered the silent sea. The breeze dropped down. 'I was sad as sad could be.' The bloody sun shone in the hot and copper sky. The sun was really bloody and furious at noon. It came exactly above the mast. It was 'no bigger than the moon'. The sun was severe and unrelenting.

Q25. Describe the state of complete stagnation and immobility in the middle of the sea.

Ans. The mariners were 'sad' as 'sad' they could be. They spoke only to break the silence of the sea. Day after day they were stuck in the middle of the sea. There was neither 'breath nor motion'. The ship stood in the middle like a painted ship. There was no movement of the waves either. The ocean itself looked 'painted'. Hence, the scene presented a picture of complete stagnation, decay and immobility.

Q26. Describe the picture of rot and decay described in the ballad.

Ans. The ship and mariners faced a stage where everything came to a standstill. The ship stood stuck without any movement. The ship as well as the sea were immobile and appeared to be 'painted'. The 'very deep did rot'. It was a picture of decay and rot not only at the surface but in the very deep of the ocean too. The slimy things did crawl upon the muddy and sticky ocean.

Q27. Describe the death-fires and burning of the witch's oils. Why does Coleridge use, these pictures?

Ans. The ballad 'The Rime of Ancient Mariner' is set in a typically mediaeval and supernatural background. The supernatural element adds mystery and romance. The death-fires danced at night. The water burnt like witch's oils. It burnt green,

blue and white. Coleridge builds up the right kind of atmosphere after painting a picture of decay and immobility in the last two stanzas.

Q28. What does the hanging of the albatross around the Mariner's neck symbolise? Why did he have evil looks from 'old and young'? [V. Imp.]

Ans. The ballad 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner' is a tale of sin and repentance. The killing of the innocent and auspicious albatross was really a terrible act. Such an act naturally brought deep despair and woe to the old Mariner. The curse tormented him constantly. Instead of the holy cross it was the albatross that was keeping hanging around his neck.

Q29. 'Water, water, every where,
Nor any drop to drink'

Describe the irony of the situation.

[V. Imp.]

Ans. It is quite ironical that the ship and the Mariners were in the middle of the sea. Water and water was all around them. Unfortunately, their throats had gone dry as not a drop of water was available for drinking. They were rather in a very hopeless situation. They couldn't drink the sea-water that surrounded the ship. They were only condemned to remain thirsty and go without water.

Q30. What is the message that Coleridge wants to convey through the poem? [Imp.]

Ans. S.T. Coleridge's ballad 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner' is based on the theme of sin, revenge and repentance. The killing of the innocent albatross-'a Christian Soul' brings sufferings to the old Mariner and other sailors. The message is quite clear. Any sin, even if it is committed in a fit of anger or rush of blood, brings woes and despair to the man who commits it. The sin hangs around constantly around our neck like the albatross hanging around the Mariner's neck.

Q31. Describe the poetic devices used in the poem.

[V. Imp.]

Ans. The ballad 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner' is woven around an atmosphere of mediaevalism. Archaic words like 'kirk', 'kin', 'sayth', 'spake' etc. represent the folklore of olden days. The poetic devices commonly used are alliterations, repetitions, similes and metaphors. The rhyme scheme *abcb* in the stanzas of four lines and *aba bcb* or *aac bcb* in the stanzas of six lines gives the desired musical effect to the ballad.

II. VALUE-BASED LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS (80-100 Words)

Q1. What is a ballad? Describe how S.T. Coleridge develops the Christian theme of sin, revenge and repentance in 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner'. [V. Imp.]

Ans. A ballad is a poem that tells a story. Most of the ballads, including 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner' have certain common characteristics. They have romance, mediaeval atmosphere and archaic language. The ancient Mariner, the albatross is presented as a bird of "good omen". The death-fires and sea-water being referred to as witch's oil all make 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner' a ballad in the classical mode. The archaic language and words like 'stoppeth', 'quoth', 'eftsoons' add to that desired effect.

The poet develops the theme of sin, revenge and repentance on the basis of traditional Christian values. The killing of the innocent and auspicious albatross who brought a favourable wind for the sailors was no doubt a sin. And naturally, the consequences of the sin demand that the ancient Mariner and the sailors must suffer. And they did suffer. The ship was stuck in the middle of the ocean. Everything presented a picture of complete decay, degeneration and stagnation. The ship was followed by the spirit from "the land of mist and snow". The ancient Mariner was guilt-ridden. The albatross and not the cross hang around the Ancient Mariner's

neck. It would not leave him but stay for ever to remind that he had committed a sin. He must suffer for killing an auspicious bird that had come here to seek their hospitality.

Q2. The killing of an innocent bird invited a curse on the Mariner and his companions. The Ancient Mariner makes a diary entry describing how he and all other sailors suffered after the innocent bird was killed in a fit of senseless anger that overpowered him. Reproduce that entry in your own words. [Imp.]

Ans. 4 March, 20××, Monday

It seems that the curse has fallen on us. The innocent and 'a Christian Soul' was senselessly killed. His spirit is crying for revenge. The breeze drops down suddenly and so are the sails. It is sad 'as sad could be'. We speak only to break the silence of the sea. 'Day after day, day after day' we are stuck in the middle of the ocean. No breath. No motion. Total immobility. This idle ship, seems to be on 'a painted ocean'. Water is everywhere but we don't have a drop to drink. The very deep does rot. O Christ! Never in our lives have we seen such a hopeless situation. The death-fires seem to dance at night. The water burns green, blue and white like witch's oils. And many of us have seen horrible dreams. A spirit is following and chasing us coming from the land of mist and snow.

The Albatross doesn't seem to leave me. It has come to stay forever. It is not the cross but the Albatross that hangs around my neck. It is the price of the sin that I had committed in my senseless anger. It will serve as a reminder that curses and sufferings are the wages of the sin.

Q3. The Mariner had a magical spell on the wedding guest. The Wedding-Guest later on writes a letter to his friend describing how he was stopped and made to listen to the old Mariner's tale. He describes his helplessness to free himself from the spell of the Mariner. Reproduce that letter in your own words. [V. Imp.]

Ans. 12, College Street

London

20 March, 20××

Dear John

You never know when and where life will throw new surprises for you. Three of us got ready for the wedding. But an ancient Mariner particularly stopped me to listen to his tale. I had no mood or time to listen to his tale. But the old Mariner with a long grey beard and glittering eyes wouldn't listen to me. The bridegroom doors were 'opened wide'. I was an important member of the bridegroom's family. The guests had come and the feasts were set. Only I was not there. The Mariner was holding me with his skinny hand and I was completely under the spell of his glittering eyes. I could do nothing but only beat my breast in despair.

The old Mariner continued with his tale. He described at length how the ship was cheered when it left the harbour and how it was chased by a violent storm that dragged it southwards. The ship was surrounded by huge icebergs. Then came the auspicious bird, the albatross, with a favourable wind. The sailors hailed him in God's name. One day, the ancient Mariner in a fit of mad anger killed the albatross with his cross-bow. The killing of the innocent bird brought untold miseries to the sailors. The curse of the bird never let them live in peace. Instead of the cross, the dead albatross was hung around the neck of the ancient Mariner. It was a reminder that sufferings and curses are the wages of sin.

Yours sincerely

Harris Ford

Q4. Describe the roles of the Wedding-Guest, the ancient Mariner and the sailors (other mariners) in the poem 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner'. Why was the Wedding-Guest forced to listen to the old Mariner's tale like a 'three years' child? Why did the ancient Mariner have to tell his tale to someone? Why did the Mariner feel guilt-ridden? [Imp.]

Ans. The Wedding-Guest provides a sharp contrast to the ancient Mariner and the sailors. The old Mariner with a 'long grey beard', 'glittering eyes', and 'skinny' hands lives in a world which has no connection with the modern world or with the present times. He is tormented by a sense of guilt that is the result of his killing an innocent and auspicious bird, the albatross. The Wedding-Guest lives in the immediate present. He has to attend the wedding feast. He is a close relative of the bridegroom and has to be present at the wedding. He knows that all other guests have come and the 'feast is set'. But he is helpless. The long bearded and glittering eyed ancient Mariner keeps him under his spell. He is forced to listen to the old Mariner's tale like a 'three years' child'.

The guilt-ridden old Mariner has to tell his tale to someone. He is also helpless. He has committed a sin by killing the innocent and auspicious bird that brings a favourable wind for the ship and for them. He is under a curse.

The sailors or the other mariners are fickle-minded. They changed their moods, morals and stand quite often. First they curse the ancient Mariner for killing a bird that had brought a favourable wind for them. In the very next breath, they justify his killing of the albatross because it had brought mist and fog for them.

TEST YOUR SKILLS

I. SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. The sailors were fickle-minded and could change their views according to their whims. Give a reasoned answer.
2. Describe the curse that befell on the mariners after the albatross was killed?
3. Describe the sufferings of the sailors after the killing of the albatross.
4. How was the ancient Mariner punished for killing the albatross?
5. Describe 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner' as a ballad.
6. Describe the role of the Wedding-Guest in the poem.
7. How did the voyage begin? Did it proceed in the same way?
8. Who was the Wedding-Guest? Why couldn't he resist successfully the ancient Mariner from telling his tale?

II. VALUE-BASED LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Why was the ancient Mariner so eager to tell his tale? Why was the Wedding-Guest reluctant to listen to his tale?
2. Describe the voyage before the arrival of the albatross.
3. Describe the albatross. What reaction did the sailors show on its arrival?
4. Describe the activities of the albatross. Why did the sailors hail its arrival?
5. Why did the ancient Mariner kill the albatross? What was the reaction of the sailors?