



INDIAN SCHOOL DARSAIT
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH



Subject : English

Topic: THE RIME OF THE ANCIENT MARINER

Worksheet No. :18

Resource Person:Sumitha Julius Netto

Date : _____

Name of the Student : _____

Class & Division : _____

Roll Number : _____

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

4 M

1. "The bridegroom's doors are opened wide,

And I am next of kin

The guests are met, the feast is set :

May'st hear the merry din".

(a) Who is next of kin?

Ans : The wedding guest is next of kin.

(b) Why is the wedding guest helpless and restless?

Ans : He is eager to join the wedding party.

(c) What does 'merry din' refer to?

Ans : The noise of celebration and festivities.

(d) What poetic device is used in the third line ?

Ans :The poetic device used in the third line is **internal rhyme**- the words '**met & set**' in the same line rhyme..

2. "He holds him with his glittering eye

The wedding guest stood still

And listens like a three-year old child

The mariner hath his will".

(a) Why does the mariner hold him?

Ans : The wedding guest is reluctant to listen to the mariner.

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

Ans :**Simile**- the wedding guest is **compared** to a 3year old child.

(c) What is the mariner's will?

Ans : The mariner wants to hold the guest and relate his tales of misery.

(d) What does the 'hath' mean?

Ans : "**Hath**" is an archaic word that means '**have**'.

3. *The ship was cheered, the harbour cleared*

Merrily did we drop

Below the kirk, below the hill

Below the light-house top.

(a) On what note does the journey begin?

Ans : The journey begins with optimism and cheering.

(b) What sights were seen on the way?

Ans : They saw a hill, a lighthouse when the ship cleared from the harbour.

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

Ans : It is an archaic word for 'church'. It gives the poem the flavour of a traditional ballad.

(d) Explain the poetic device used in the 3rd and 4th lines.

Ans :**Anaphora**- as the word '**below**' is used to start consecutive sentences &**Repetition**- as the

word 'below' is repeated.

4. *And now the storm-blast came and he
was tyrannous and strong
He struck with his o'ertaking wings
And chased us south along.*

(a) Identify the figure of speech in line 1 and 3.

Ans : **Personification** -the 'storm' is personified as a bird with powerful wings & **Hyperbole**- as the situation is exaggerated.

(b) Explain "overtaking wings".

Ans : It means powerful wings that create a horrifying effect.

(c) How does the storm affect the ship?

Ans : The ship was driven towards the south.

(d) What does the word 'tyrannous' mean?

Ans: Tyrannous means '**severe and harsh**'.

5. *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*

(a) What are the poetic devices used in the second line?

Ans : **Alliteration** – as the consonant sound 'd' and 's' is repeated & **oxymoron** - two opposite words have come together.

(b) What does the phrase 'a dismal sheen' mean?

Ans :It means a sad and gentle brightness.

(c) What does the word 'ken' here mean?

Ans : '**Ken**' is an archaic word that means '**to see**'.

(d) Explain – 'Nor shapes of men nor beasts we ken'.

Ans :The place was totally deserted. No shapes of men or beasts could be seen there. Only ice was seen all around the ship.

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

(a) What is an Albatross?

Ans :Albatross is a very large white sea-bird with long wings.

(b) Explain – 'did cross an Albatross'.

Ans :An Albatross appeared near the ship.

(c) Why was the albatross hailed as a Christian soul?

Ans :It was hailed as a Christian soul because it brought hope like Jesus.

(d) What blessings did the albatross bring?

Ans :It appeared to be like a good omen and ushered in hope.

7. *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!*

(a) What did the Albatross eat?

Ans :The Albatross ate whatever the sailors gave it.

(b) Describe the poetic device used in the second line.

Ans :**Repetition**—the word '**round**' is repeated..

(c) Who was the helmsman?

Ans : The person steering the ship is called a helmsman.

(d) What positive sign was seen on the arrival of the Albatross?

Ans : The ice broke into pieces with a thundering noise and the ship moved ahead.

8. **“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”

(a) Identify the speaker of the first two lines.

Ans :The wedding guest speaks these lines.

(b) What has been the speaker compelled to do?

Ans :The wedding guest has been forced to hear the mariner’s tale of sin and suffering.

(c) What was the Mariner’s crime? Why did he do so?

Ans :The mariner’s crime was killing of the albatross for no reason.

(d) What does the word ‘plague’ mean in the above extract?

Ans :‘**Plague**’ here is an archaic word that means ‘**trouble**’.

9. **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!

(a) Why did no ‘sweet bird follow’ them?

Ans :No sweet bird did follow them because the ancient Mariner had killed the bird.

(b) Why was the ‘south wind’ called ‘good’ ?

Ans :It was called so because it helped the ship to sail smoothly.

(c) What does the word ‘hollo’ mean in the above extract?

Ans :‘**Hollo**’ here is an archaic word that means ‘**call**’.

(d) Describe the poetic device of the 3rd and 4th line.

Ans :**Enjambment**—as the sentence begins in the 4th line and completes in the 5th line.

10. **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!

(a) What hellish thing had the Mariner done?

Ans :The ancient Mariner had killed the albatross with his cross-bow.

(b) Give meaning of ‘it would work ’em woe’.

Ans :It means it would bring unhappiness and sorrow for them.

(c) Describe the poetic device of the 5th line.

Ans: **Internal Rhyme**- the words ‘**they and slay**’ in the same line rhyme.

(d) What does the word ‘averred’ mean in the above extract?

Ans: ‘**Averred**’ here means ‘**firmly**’.

11. *Day after day, day after day
We struck, nor breath nor motion,
As idle as a painter ship
Upon a painted ocean.*
- (a) Why are the words repeated in the first sentence? Discuss their effect.
Ans: The repetition conveys a sheer length of time that passed.
- (b) Who were struck and where?
Ans: The ship and sailors of the ancient mariner's ship were struck in the middle of the silent sea.
- (c) What effect does the literary device of the last line create?
Ans: The last line is a simile and it pictorially describes a becalmed ship on a still ocean.
- (d) Who are addressed as 'we' in the extract?
Ans: The ancient mariner and the other sailors are referred as 'we' in the extract.

12. *About, about, in reel and rout
The death fires danced at night
The water, like a witches oils,
Burnt green, and blue and white.*
- (a) Explain – 'reel' and 'rout'.
'Reel' and 'rout' are dance movements and here they describe the circulatory motion of the fires.
- (b) What do the death fires represent?
They represent the evil forces or death.
- (c) Discuss the simile given in the last two lines.
The reference is to Shakespeare's three witches of Macbeth. The water seems to be sparkling with different colours. This is an element of supernaturalism.
- (d) Name the poem and the poet.
Ans: The Rime Ancient Mariner by Samuel Taylor Coleridge

II **SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS(20-30 words)**

2M

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

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

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

Or

What were the sufferings undergone by the mariners in the silent sea.

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

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

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

4. **Describe the behaviour of the sailors in the poem ‘The Rime of the Ancient Mariner’.**

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.

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

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

6. **‘Water, water, every where, Nor any drop to drink’ Describe the irony of the situation**

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.

7. **What does the hanging of the albatross around the Mariner's neck symbolise? Why did he have evil looks from ‘old and young’?**

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 hung around his neck.

III. **LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS (100-120 words)**

8 M

1. **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’.**

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 was hung 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.

2. **When the Albatross arrived on the ship, the Mariners experienced a sense of joy and were infused with new hope. Comment.**

When the sailors set sail, everything was favourable. The crew was given a warm farewell. The ship was sailing towards south, so the sun appeared to be rising from the sea. It shone brightly and sank the same way. Several days out at the sea, a very fierce storm lashed the ship with force and drove it towards south. The masts of the ship were bent and its prow dipped in the sea. It looked like a person with his bent head before an enemy. The ship reached the region of mists and ice with icebergs, snow clapped cliffs all around. The place was totally deserted. Then an albatross appeared through the fog. The mariners were greatly relieved at the sight of the bird because they had not seen any living being for many days. They called albatross, a Christian soul; because after the arrival of the bird the ice split and a good wind sprang up behind them. They were infused with a new hope and experienced a sense of joy as they were able to leave that polar region.

3. **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?**

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.