5 THE RIME OF THE ANCIENT MARINER

By Samuel Taylor Coleridge

INTRODUCTION

Samuel Taylor Coleridge's poem 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner' is quite different from the works of other romantic poets. It is based on a dream of Coleridge's friend and was published in 1798. It is written in the style of a folk ballad and is divided into seven parts. The poem has a scattering of references to outdated beliefs and practices. It is surely not only the mariner, who is ancient, but even his rhyme is old. There are multiple and contradictory time elements and the poem itself hides its origins. Nevertheless the extravagant use of archaic words make it appear old.

Coleridge's deliberately archaic language, ominous tones and 'loony' narrator are a stunning contrast to the lighter, pastoral works of Wordsworth and others. Mariner's unkempt yet charismatic appearance suggests subtly to the reader, through the repeated focus on his 'glittering eye' and his 'long beard', that he has become a spokesman of nature. The mariner's timelessness, in direct contrast to the death of all crew members, suggests the eternity of nature of which he has become symbolic. Ultimately the mariner repents for his sins and this has the echoes of the Christian message, though his killing of the albatross is a crime against nature. The poem focusses on the power and nemesis of the natural world. However, the poem hinges around the line, "I killed an albatross." Nevertheless after repentance, the didactic content of the poem can be seen in its message, "He prayeth best, who loveth best."

सारांश

सैमुएल टेलर कोलेरिज की कविता 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner दूसरे रूमानी कवियों की रचनाओं से बहुत भिन्न है। यह Coleridge के मित्र के एक स्वप्न पर आधारित है। पहली बार यह सन् 1798 में छपी थी। यह लोकगाथा गीत की शैली में लिखी गई है और 7 भागों में विभाजित है। कविता में छुट-पुट तौर से विवरण आया है पुराने रीति रिवाज़ों का। केवल नाविक ही पुरातन नहीं हैं परन्तु उसकी तुकांत कविता भी पुरानी है। अनेक और सर्वथा एक दूसरे के विपरीत अनेक प्रसंग और समय तत्त्व भी छिपे हैं। कविता स्वयं अपना मूल स्रोत छिपाती है - लेकिन बहुत पुराने शब्दों का उपयोग इसे पुरातन काल का बनाता है।

कोलेरिज का जानबूझकर पुरातनकालीन शब्दों का उपयोग, अपशकुन झलकाता अंदाज़ और सनकी कथावाचक, ''उसी की प्रार्थना सर्वश्रेष्ठ है जो सब प्राणियों से प्रेम करता है,'' उनकी शैली और वड्र्सवर्थ की हल्की फुल्की साधारण ग्रामीण जीवन दर्शाती काव्य रचनाओं के बीच चकित कर देने वाला अंतर दिखता है।

नाविक का अव्यवस्थित परन्तु आकर्षक रंगरूप पाठक को दर्शाता है कि वह प्रकृति का प्रवक्ता है। उसकी चमकती आँख और लम्बी दाढ़ी का बार-बार वर्णन इसकी पुष्टि करता है। नाविक का हमेशा कायम रहने वाला व्यक्तित्व/अस्तित्व जहाज़ के दूसरे कर्मचारियों के मारे जाने की घटना, ध्यान ले जाती है कि प्रकृति अनंत और पारलौकिक है जिसका एक अटूट अंग बन गया है 'नाविक'।

अंत में नाविक अपने पापों का पश्चाताप करता है जो क्रिश्चियन संदेश की गूंज है। उनका एलबेट्राज़ चिड़िया को मार देना प्रकृति के विरुद्ध जुर्म है। कविता केंद्रित होती है इस विचार पर कि प्रकृति पतनशील है जिससे बचा नहीं जा सकता।

कविता अटक जाती है इस पंक्ति पर "I killed an albatross" परन्तु पश्चाताप के बाद कविता का नैतिक पक्ष इस संदेश में " He prayeth best, who loveth best." स्पष्ट दिखाई देता है,

WORDS–MEANINGS

• **stoppeth :** stops • **thy :** your • **thou :** you • **merry din :** happy noise of celebration • **unhand :** leave • **glittering :** shining • **hath :** has • **paced :** entered • **Nodding :** acknowledging good wishes • **fled :** moved fast • **wondrous :** surprisingly • *dismal :* dull and depressing • **plagued :** troubled • **drought :** parched and dry • **kirk :** is an archaic word for church. it lends a favour of a traditional ballad and creates an effect of distancing in time. • **Vesper's Nine :** Literal meaning of Vesper is Venus, which is visible in the evenings. Number nine is a magical number for Coleridge and he was fascinated by it. Basically Vesper's Nine refers to evening prayers in churches. • yell and blow (para 12) refers to the noise and convection of the sea storm. It could also be the commotion or the cries of the sailors.

LITERARY DEVICES

ALLITERATION

- By the long grey beard and glittering eye
- furrow followed free
- It would work' ear woe
- down dropt the breeze, the sails dropt down
- The fair breeze blew, the white foam flew

METAPHORS

- Merry Minstrelsy
- snowy clefts
- Vespers Nine
- The Furrow

REPETITION

- glittering eye
- bright-eyed Mariner
- ice was here etc.
- water, water

PERSONIFICATION

- Sun – is personified as a Man
- Storm – is also personified as a Man
- Blast – also as a Bird ("overtaking wing")

SIMILES

- Like a three year old child – wedding guest
- Red as a rose – the Bride
- As who pursued with yell and blow – the ship
- Like noises in a sound – Thundering and growling sounds
- As idle as a painted ship – ship as if it is painted
- Like witch's oils – ingredients used by witches to make their broth

EXPLANATION OF SOME EXPRESSIONS

PART - I

1. *It is an ancient* ***mariner,***
And he stoppeth one of three.
'By they long grey beard and
glittering *eye, How wherefore*
stopp'st thou me?
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 1-8)

Explanation ...

An ancient mariner stopped one of the three guests, who were going for a wedding. The guest was attracted by the long beard and glittering eyes of the mariner. However, he does not like being stopped and asked the Mariner why he was holding on to him. The wedding guest was in a hurry since the doors of the bridegroom's house were open and the sound of merry-making and the festivities could be heard.

2. *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.*
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 9-16)

Explanation ...

The mariner held the wedding guest with his skinny hand and started relating his story abruptly, "There was a ship." The wedding guest is reluctant to stay but he is mesmerised by the gaze of the mariner and listens to his story like a three-year-old child.

3. *The Wedding-Guest sat on a stone:*
He cannot choose but hear:
And thus spake on that ancient man,
The bright-eyed Mariner.
'The ship was cheered, the harbour cleared,
Merrily did we drop
Below the ***kirk****, below the hill*
Below the lighthouse top.
(Lines 17-24)

Explanation ...

The wedding guest sat down on the stone. The bright-eyed mariner started telling his story. When the mariner's ship had to set sail, they were given a warm farewell and the ship started sailing, leaving behind the church, the lighthouse etc.

4. *The Sun came up upon the left,*
Out of the sea came he!
And he shone bright, and on the right
Wend down into the sea
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 25-32)

Explanation ...

The ship was sailing towards the south, so the sun appeared to be rising from the sea. It shone brightly and sank the same way. Everyday the sun rose higher and higher, up to the height of the mast. At this point the mariner's story is interrupted, since the loud music from the bridegroom's house distracts the wedding-guest and he starts getting restless to leave.

5. *The bride hath paced into the hall.*
Red as a rose is she;
Nodding their heads before her goes
The merry ***minstrelsy***.
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 33-40)

Explanation ...

The loud music is the indication of the arrival of the bride. She enters looking beautiful like a rose, and is followed by a band of musicians. The wedding-guest does not like missing all these festivities but the mariner succeeds in detaining him.

6. *And now the STORM-BLAST came, and he*
Was ***tyrannous*** *and strong :*
He struck with his o'ertaking-wings,
And chased us south along.
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 41-50)

Explanation ...

The mariner continues telling his story. A very fierce storm lashes the ship with force and drove the ship towards the south. The masts of the ship were bent and its prow dipped into the sea. The ship looked like a person with his head bent, escaping from an enemy.

7. *And it grew wondrous cold:*
And ice, mast-high, came floating by,
As green as ***emerald***.
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
The ice was here, the ice was there, (Lines 51-58)

Explanation ...

Now the ship reached the region of mists and ice. It was intensely cold and icebergs and snow-capped cliffs could be seen. This place was totally deserted and only ice could be seen all around.

8. *It cracked and growled, and roared and howled,*
Like noises in a ***swound****!*
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
It ate the food it ne'er had eat,
And round and round it flew. (Lines 59-66)

Explanation ...

The mariner and other shipmates were only surrounded by ice on all sides, which made funny sounds like that of growling, cracking and howling. At last an albatross appeared through the fog. The entire crew welcomes it, as if it were a Christian soul.

9. *The ice did split with a thunder-fit;*
The ***helmsman*** *steered us through!*
And a good south wind sprung up behind:
The Albatross did follow,
And every day, for food or play,
Came to the mariners' ***hollo****!*
In mist or cloud, on mast or ***shroud***. (Lines 67-74)

Explanation ...

The albatross ate the food the sailors gave and hovered around the ship. They were lucky because south wind started blowing which was favourable to them. The albatross followed the ship and would appear when food was offered to him.

10. *It* ***perched*** *for* ***Vespers nine;***
Whiles all the night, through fog-smoke white.
Glimmered the white Moon-shine.
'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.
The sun now rose upon the right: (Lines 75-82)

Explanation ...

The albatross would sit on the mast sails. The mariner and other sailors continued sailing for nine more days. At this juncture, the mariner looked fearful and guilty. The wedding-guest prayed that God have mercy on him but the mariner unravelled the mystery, saying, "I shot the albatross with my cross-bow."

PART - II

11. *Out of the sea came he,*
Still hid in mist, and on the left
Went down into the sea.
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!
And I had done a hellish thing. (Lines 83-90)

Explanation ...

The sun rose on the right side of the ship, though it had been misty all the day. The sun set and the favourable south wind was still blowing, but there was no bird to keep them company or eat the food they offered.

12. *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!
Nor dim nor red, like God's own head, (Lines 91-96)

Explanation ...

All the shipmates condemned the ancient mariner for killing the albatross. They felt that albatross was a bird of good omen and now they will be facing misfortune and disaster, for killing the bird for no reason.

13. *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.
The fair breeze blew, the white foam flew,
The furrow followed free;
We were the first that ever burst
Into the silent sea.
Down dropt the breeze, the sails dropt down. (*Lines* 97-106)

Explanation ...

To their surprise, bright sun arose, which looked glorious like the head of god. The sailors changed their opinion and now they praised the mariner for killing the bird, since the albatross had only brought fog and mist. The ship sailed gently and white foam was flying on the surface of the silent ocean.

14. *'Twas sad as sad could be;*
And we did speak only to break
The silence of the sea!
All in a hot and copper sky,
The bloody Sun, at noon,
Right up above the mast did stand,
No bigger than the Moon
Day after day, day after day. (Lines 107-114)

Explanation ...

But too much silence is ominous and the atmosphere looks frightening. There is no wind, the sails drop and the sky looked like heated copper. The sun looked red and very small like the moon.

15. *We stuck, nor breath not motion;*
As idle as a painted ship
Upon a pained ocean.
Water, water, everywhere,
And all the boards did shrink;
Water, water, everywhere,
Nor any drop to drink.
*The very **deep** did rot: O Christ!* (Lines 115-122)

Explanation ...

The ship was stuck at the same place because there was no wind or tide. It was still like a painting. Although there was water everywhere, the boards of the ship started shrinking and the sailors had not even a drop of water to drink.

16. *That ever this should be!*
Yea, slimy things did crawl with legs
Upon the slimy sea.
*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.
And some in dreams assured were (Lines 123-130)

Explanation ...

The water looked rotten and sticky and ugly sea creatures could be seen near the ship. The sailors pray to God to save them. Death-fires appeared to be dancing and hovering around them and the sea water looked like the oil burnt by witches.

17. *Of the Spirit that plagued us so:*
*Nine **fathom** deep he had followed us*
From the land of mist and snow.
And every tongue, through utter drought
Was withered at the root,
We could not speak, nor more than if
We had been choked with soot.
Ah! well a-day! what evil looks
Had I from old and young! (Lines 131-138)

Explanation ...

Some of the sailors had a nightmare that a spirit was trying to take revenge for killing the albatross. The

spirit was tracking them from the land of mist and snow and it was moving nine fathoms deep in the water.

18. *Instead of the cross, the Albatross*
About my neck was hung. (Lines 139-142)

Explanation ...

The sailors condemn the mariner for landing them into such a ghastly-situation. Their throats are absolutely choked with soot. They are full of contempt and in great anger they removed his cross and put the dead albatross round his neck.

19. *Long grey beard and glittering eye.....* (lines 3-4)

Explanation...

These physical features of the ancient mariner are very striking and charismatic and have a great effect on the wedding-guest. He is mesmerised by the appearance and the manner of the mariner and becomes subdued. The long beard of the mariner suggests subtly that he has become a spokesman for nature.

20. *grey-beard loon.....* (line 11)

Explanation...

Coleridge's use of archaic words makes the poem look timeless. These words are a part of old-fashioned vocabulary.

21. *For he heard the loud bassoon.....*(line 32)

Explanation...

The musical instruments suggest the festivities in the bridegroom's house, but the wedding-guest is still under the spell of the mariner. There is a deliberate contrast between the bright lights of the wedding ceremony and the dark tale of the mariner.

22. *And now the storm-blast came and he*
was tyrannous and strong..... (lines 41-42)

Explanation...

The storm-blast is personified as a person, who is very cruel and strong and the entire ship is tossed here and there because of the fury of the storm-blast. The storm-blast has great devastating power and it pushes the ship to the south.

23. *And ice, mast-high, came floating by*
As green as emerald..... (lines 53-54)

Explanation...

The ship has reached the region of snows and mist and icebergs as high as masts can be seen. The green colour of the sea can be seen reflected by the icebergs. These kind of scenes add to the beauty and pictorial quality of the poem.

24. *It cracked and growled, and roared and howled.....* (line 58)

Explanation...

The above words all are associated with sounds and they add to the musicality of the poem. These words indicate the breaking, sliding and falling of huge chunks of ice.

25. *As if it had been a 'Christian soul'*
We hailed it in God's name..... (line 64)

Explanation...

The albatross is seen as a symbol of God's favour, a blessing in disguise. The coming of the albatross lifts the spirits of the crew and his coming 'out of fog' signifies 'hope from despair'.

26. *With my cross-bow*
I shot the albatross..... (line 80)

Explanation...

The killing of the innocent creature of God is a sin and this act of the mariner signifies that he has lost connection with God and all good things.

27. *Then all averred, I had killed the bird*
that bring fog and mist..... (line 101)

Explanation...

The sailors are very fickle-minded. First they welcome the albatross and consider him a blessing. Later they think that albatross was responsible for the coming of fog and mist.

28. *Water, water, everywhere*
Nor a drop to drink.....(lines 120-121)

Explanation...

The crew realises the gravity of the mariner's action of killing the albatross. They are stranded without wind or water to drink. These signify that the crew has lost touch with the very elements of life. The crew also seem to share equally in the act of sin.

29. *Slimy creatures did crawl with legs.....* (line 124)
death-fires danced at night..... (line 127)

Explanation...

The poet uses these mystic elements dramatically

to create an atmosphere of horror and evil. The mariner, by destroying one of God's creatures, exposes himself to the darker aspects of the world. The poet suggests that sin and defiance of God bring the worst results.

30. *instead of the cross, the albatross*
About my neck was hung..... (line 140)

Explanation...

In retaliation for their increasingly miserable plight, the crew hangs the corpse of the dead albatross about the mariner's neck like a cross. The cross, a symbol of God's grace and blessing, is wrenched away from the mariner and the albatross is put instead, which is a grim reminder of his sin.

SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT

TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS (SOLVED)

4. 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 you as an example :

1	stoppeth	why	3
2	thy	entered	14
3	wherefore	stopped	1
4	stopp'st	you	5
5	thou	lunatic	8
6	may'st	at once	9
7	quoth	fainting fit	18
8	loon	has	11
9	eftsoons	can't you	6
10	dropt	stopping	4
11	hath	church	13
12	spake	enemy	15
13	kirk	yes	16
14	paced	see	17
15	foe	call	19
16	aye	trouble	20
17	ken	looking	21
18	swound	your	2
19	hollo	said	7
20	plague	dropped	10
21	look'st	spoke	12

6. 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

Answers : **(a)** (iii) **(b)** (i) **(c)** (ii)
(d) (iv) **(e)** (iii) **(f)** (ii)
(g) (iii) **(h)** (i) **(i)** (i)
(j) (ii) **(k)** (ii)

7. Answer the following questions briefly.

(a) *How did the ancient mariner stop the wedding guest?*

Ans. The mariner caught hold of the wedding guest's hand, tried to mesmerise him with his gaze and did not allow the wedding guest to go.

(b) *Was the wedding guest happy to be stopped? Why not?*

Ans. The wedding guest had come to attend the wedding so he was not interested in listening to the mariner's story. The wedding festivities had begun and the guest was getting impatient to leave.

(c) *Describe the ancient mariner.*

Ans. The ancient mariner was shabby, had a grey-beard with glittering eyes, his hands were rough and skinny and he had a mesmerising gaze.

(d) *How does the mariner describe the movement of the ship as it sails away from the land?*

Ans. As the ship moved away, it was widely cheered. The ship moved away from a church, passed from under a hill and a light-house.

(e) *What kind of weather did the sailors enjoy at the beginning of their journey? How has it been expressed?*

Ans. The sun shone very brightly on the left side and everything looked cheerful. The sun has been personified as a man.

(f) *How did the sailors reach the land of mist and snow?*

Ans. After the clear sunshine there rose a violent sea-storm and the ship got trapped in it. The ship is tossed on the rough waves and the sailors have a difficult time controlling it. The ship is forcibly driven to the extreme south where the ship is full of mist and snow.

(g) *How does the mariner express the fact that the ship was completely surrounded by icebergs?*

Ans. The poet uses literary devices like Alliteration/ Assonance to convey this effect. "The ice was here, the

iceman was there, the ice was all around." These lines reinforce the extent of ice around the ship and the sailor's sense of being helpless and trapped.

(h) *How do we know that the albatross was not afraid of the humans?*

Ans. The albatross ate the food it was offered though it was not its natural food. To the trapped and forlorn sailors, the bird appeared to be a Christian soul for it brought them new hope like Jesus had brought to the world.

(i) *What was the terrible deed done by the mariner? Why did he do it?*

Ans. The ancient mariner wantonly killed the innocent albatross which had brought new hope to the sailors. He just shot the albatross for no apparent reason.

8. 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	alliteration
3. The sun came up upon the left, Out of the sea came he	Personification
4. The bride hath paced into the hall, Red as a rose is she	Simile
5. And now the storm-blast came, and he was tyrannous and strong:	Personification
6. With sloping masts and dipping prow, As who pursued with yell and blow Still treads the shadow of his foe	Simile
7. The ice was here, the ice was there, The ice was all around	Repetition

OTHER IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the significance of the title of the poem 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner.'

Ans. 'Rime' means Rhyme, a poem or a song. 'Ancient' means old, strange pertaining to some far-off times. The poem has some references to outdated beliefs and practices. It is surely not only the mariner who is ancient, but even his rhyme is. Reading the poem at a stretch, one cannot guess the time-frame it belongs to. Coleridge has deliberately used some archaic words to make it appear ancient. The poem contains the story of the mariner's sin, punishment and his redemption. The entire poem deals with the tale of the ancient mariner and all the actions, description relate to the ancient mariner's tale. So the title is very suitable, direct and suggestive.

2. Under which circumstances is the Wedding-Guest detained and held by the ancient mariner. What is the reaction of the wedding guest?

[C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]

Or

Why did the Ancient Mariner not let the guest go and attend the wedding?

Ans. The ancient mariner is tortured and is emotionally wrecked. The burden of the sin and the guilt of killing the albatross is too heavy for the ancient mariner to carry. He has no rest or peace of mind. He is advised by a hermit to tell this story to someone, so that the torment he is suffering, the ache he is feeling, is reduced. The mariner

goes from village to village but no one is ready to listen to his story. He finds a wedding guest and narrates the story to him. Narrating the story soothes him, lifts the burden off his soul and restores him to normalcy. The Wedding guest is awed and mesmerised by the mariner but he is angry at having missed the wedding festivities. However, he learns a valuable lesson, "He prayeth best, who loveth best."

3. What kind of farewell was given to the ship of the ancient mariner? Give an account of the ship's journey before it reaches the land of snow.

Ans. The journey of the ancient mariner begins in favourable circumstances. The ship was accorded a very cheerful send-off, it crossed the harbour very quickly and entered the main seawaters. The ship sailed away from the coast, the church, the hill and the lighthouse. The sun shone bright and the ship appeared to be near the equator. But suddenly a violent seastorm engulfed the ship and the ship tossed on the merciless sea waves. The ship was forcibly driven towards the South Pole. The ship was bent with the force of the wind and it was unable to escape the fury of the gale. The South Pole was full of mist, snow and icebergs as high as the mast of the ship were floating here and there on the sea.

4. What message does Samuel Taylor Coleridge wish to convey through the poem 'Rime of the Ancient Mariner'?

Ans. 'Rime of the Ancient Mariner' is an exploration of evil, both that of men and of nature, and of salvation. The poem is full of Christian symbolism, which is also a departure from the romantic poetry. The slaughtered albatross, emerging spirits from beneath the murky water, slimy creatures of the sea, all are images of sin and evil, and its consequences. The whole poem is based on the Christian concept of sin, its punishment and redemption.

The albatross can be seen as a symbol of God's favour, bringing good results. The mariner, mortal and fallible, succumbs to his paranoia and fear, when he kills the innocent creature, thereby tainting himself with sin and losing connection with God and all things good. Coleridge uses dramatically mystical elements to express the consequences of the mariner's colossal mistake. By destroying one of God's creatures, the mariner is exposed to the darker aspects of the world.

Defying God leads to worse results. The crew hang the dead albatross around the mariner's neck. The mariner is symbolic of a Christ-like figure and the cross-like albatross, a symbol of sin, is borne only by the mariner. Though the crew also suffer, but punishment is borne only by the mariner.

In the end, the mariner is truly remorseful and is able to pray to God. As he prays, he is filled with God's grace and albatross, a symbol of sin, falls from him. The moral of the poem is sublime, "he prayeth well, who loveth well."

So Coleridge's fascination with natural evil and salvation is clear in the poem. The slimy and ghastly creatures are fantastical, but they are a direct result of a very realistic moral failing on the part of the mariner connecting between the dark and mystical with ordinary, mundane life. Coleridge, like the other romantics, sees the beautiful and compelling in both the good and bad sides of nature, and wants the reader to accept them, rather than succumb to fear as the mariner did.

REFERENCE TO CONTEXT – MCQs

Read the following and write the most appropriate option from the ones given to you.

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

(i) Whom does the ancient mariner stop?
(a) someone from the wedding band
(b) a wedding-guest
(c) some sailor
(d) the bridegroom

(ii) Where were they going?
(a) To sail in the sea
(b) To a friend's house
(c) To the wedding
(d) For some party

(iii) What is the most striking feature of the mariner?
(a) his shabby clothes **(b)** thick beard
(c) glittering eyes **(d)** weak hands

(iv) How do the looks of the mariner affect that person?
(a) intimidating **(b)** mesmerising
(c) impressive **(d)** ineffective

(v) Point out the poetic device used in the third line of the above stanza.
(a) Simile **(b)** Alliteration
(c) Metaphor **(d)** Pathetic Fallacy

Answer : **(i)** (b) **(ii)** (b) **(iii)** (c) **(iv)** (b) **(v)** (b)

2. *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.

(i) Why does the mariner use physical force to hold on to that person?
(a) he is very strong
(b) he likes the wedding-guest
(c) the wedding-guest does not wish to be detained
(d) He wants to impress him

(ii) Explain the reaction of the other speaker. What is the reason of his anger?
(a) he hates the mariner
(b) mariner is very dirty and shabby
(c) he is desperate to attend the wedding
(d) he is tired

(iii) Point out an archaic word from the above stanza.
(a) unhand **(b)** eftsoons
(c) loon **(d)** dropt

(iv) Explain 'grey-beard loon'.
(a) dirty appearance
(b) old and sick looking
(c) crazy and mad
(d) eccentric

Answer : **(i)** (c) **(ii)** (c) **(iii)** (b) **(iv)** (c)

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

(i) Point out the manner in which the bride makes her appearance.
(a) very slowly
(b) delicately and gracefully
(c) with quick speed
(d) holding her head high

(ii) Discuss the figure of speech in line 2.
(a) Metaphor **(b)** Imagery
(c) Simile **(d)** Personification

(iii) Who are the merry-minstrels that accompany the bride?
(a) the wedding guests
(b) the bridegroom
(c) the musicians, singers
(d) the guests from the side of the bride.

Answer : **(i)** (b) **(ii)** (c) **(iii)** (c)

4. *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!

(i) The above stanza is known for its musical sounds. Mention the words that create the sound effect.
(a) swound **(b)** cracked and growled
(c) around **(d)** there

(ii) What do the first two lines convey?
(a) feelings of happiness
(b) feelings of wonder and surprise
(c) helplessness of being trapped
(d) feeling of coldness

(iii) What is the poetic device used in the first line?
(a) Irony **(b)** Transferred epithet
(c) Alliteration **(d)** Imagery

(iv) Describe the atmosphere created by being trapped by ice
(a) strangeness
(b) horror and loneliness
(c) isolation and hope
(d) defeat and hopelessness

(v) Name the poetic device that helps create the effect of sound words.
(a) Alliteration **(b)** Onomatopoeia
(c) Imagery **(d)** personification

Answer : **(i)** (b) **(ii)** (c) **(iii)** (d) **(iv)** (d) **(v)** (b)

5. *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.

(i) How is the coming of the albatross favourable?
(a) It relieves the sailors of boredom
(b) It is good-looking
(c) They wish to pet him
(d) It brings south wind to help the ship to move

(ii) Why was the albatross called 'A Christian soul'?
(a) Christianity teaches charity
(b) They wish to show compassion like true Christians
(c) The bird brought new hope like Lord Jesus
(d) The bird was very gentle

(iii) What reception does the albatross receive?
(a) It angers the mariners
(b) It is welcomed as a blessing
(c) It is driven away
(d) It is beaten up

Answer : **(i)** (d) **(ii)** (c) **(iii)** (b)

6. *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 the mist.

(i) The sun is compared to something. Identify it.
(a) fog **(b)** mist
(c) head of God **(d)** bird

(ii) Why has the sun become 'glorious'?
(a) It can be seen clearly
(b) It shines brilliantly
(c) Sun rays are reflected by the snow
(d) The mariners are facing the sun

(iii) Change of surroundings changed the attitude of the sailors. How?
(a) They start feeling too cold
(b) The atmosphere grows dark and menacing
(c) They start hating the bird and think of killing him.
(d) They lose interest in the bird

(iv) How does the above stanza reflect the attitude of the sailors?
(a) kind **(b)** have charitable spirit
(c) opportunistic and fickle-minded
(d) clever

Answer : **(i)** (c) **(ii)** (a) **(iii)** (b) **(iv)** (c)

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

(i) Who are 'old' and 'young'?
(a) Ancient mariner **(b)** the bird
(c) fellow-sailors **(d)** owners of the ship

(ii) Why are the people casting evil looks?
(a) They dislike him
(b) They hold him responsible for their misery
(c) He is not hardworking
(d) His behaviour is bad

(iii) Why is the 'cross' removed from the mariner's neck? What does it indicate?
(a) hatred
(b) appreciation
(c) disbelief in his capacity
(d) punishment

(iv) Why is the dead albatross hung around the sailor's neck? What does it indicate?
(a) eternal damnation
(b) cruelty
(c) a kind of joke
(d) mockery

Answer : **(i)** (c) **(ii)** (b) **(iii)** (d) **(iv)** (a)

8. *Water, water everywhere*
And all the boards did shrink;
Water, water everywhere
Nor any drop to drink **[C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]**

(i) The repetition of the word, 'water' in the above lines conveys
(a) the ship was in water
(b) the water was saline
(c) the ship was sinking in the water
(d) there was a large volume of water surrounding them

(ii) At this point of time, the sailors yearned to
(a) drink water **(b)** repent
(c) return home **(d)** move forward

(iii) The irony in the above line is that
(a) there is water everywhere yet sailors can't swim ashore.
(b) there is water everywhere yet sailors can't drink it.
(c) there are slimy creatures all around.
(d) the sea had started rolling.

Answer : **(i)** (d) **(ii)** (a) **(iii)** (b)

9. *And now there came both mist and snow,*
And it grew wondrous cold,
And ice, mast high, came floating by
As green as emerald. **[C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]**

(i) It grew wondrous cold because
(a) of the change of weather
(b) of the floating ice
(c) the sun did not appear in the sky for days together
(d) the ship had reached the Polar region

(ii) The floating ice was
(a) breaking into pieces
(b) producing a rumbling sound
(c) as high as the mast of the ship
(d) wondrously cold

(iii) The poetic device used in the last line is
(a) Simile
(b) Metaphor
(c) Personification
(d) Alliteration

Answer : **(i)** (c) **(ii)** (c) **(iii)** (a)

REFERENCE TO CONTEXT – NON-MCQs

Read the following extracts and answer the questions.

(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.

(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

(c) What is the mariner's will?

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

(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.

(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 : The storm-blast is personified as a bird with powerful wings.

(b) Explain "overtaking wings" and "tyrannous".

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.

(5) *With sloping masts and dipping prow*
As who pursued with yell and blow
Still treads the shadow of his foe.

(a) Identify the figure of speech and explain it.

Ans : It is simile and the poet says that the masts of the ship were bent and its prow dipped into the sea.

(b) Explain - the last line

Ans : The ship looked like a person, whose head is bent, as if he is escaping an enemy.

(c) What does the description of the ship sailing suggest about the state of mind of the sailors on it?

Ans : The sailors were very confused and frightened.

(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.

[C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]

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

Ans : An Albatross appeared near the ship.

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

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

(c) What blessings did the albatross bring?

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

(7) *"God save thee, ancient Mariner*
From the friends, that plague thee thus !
Why look'st thou so?" with my cross-bow
I shot the Albatross"

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

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.

(8) *The fair breeze blew, the white foam flew*
The furrow followed free
We were the first that ever burst
Into the silent sea

(a) Discuss the poetic device in the first two lines. Discuss the effect created.

Ans : Alliteration and repetition enhances the poetic and musical effect.

(b) Explain – the furrow followed free.

Ans : 'Furrow' is used as a metaphor, it means a groove that is made while ploughing the fields. The waves make this kind of pattern in the water and ship moves smoothly.

(c) What happened when the sailors reached there?

Ans : They were trapped and stuck in a silent and lonely part of the sea.

(9) *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.

(10) *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'.

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

(b) What do the death fires represent

Ans : They represent the evil forces or death.

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

Ans : 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.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Why is the albatross greeted like a 'Christian soul'? What relationship is forged between the albatross and the crew of the ship?
[C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]

Ans : The albatross is welcomed as a good omen, like the grace of Lord Jesus. The sailors are very happy to welcome and feed him for he 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. What situation did the mariners face in the land of snow and ice?

Ans : The ship is cheered and the journey begins on an optimistic note. But soon the ship is caught in a violent storm and trapped. It is tossed on high waves and the sailors have great difficulty in controlling it under the effect of the stormy blast, the ship is driven to the south, which is the land of snow and mist and wondrously cold. There are no men, no sign of life. All they see is ice and ice around them.

3. The crew of the ship demonstrate double standards and they have contradictory ethical values. Bring out the truth of this statement by giving examples from the poem.

Ans : Initially the albatross is welcomed and called a 'Christian soul'. It is loved and petted. The sailors believe that the bird has brought luck and south wind. When the mariner kills the albatross, the sailors condemn this killing. When the weather improves and no mishap follows, they start blaming the bird for the fog and the mist and justify its killing. They become party to the sin, so they also undergo great suffering like the ancient mariner.

4. Describe the encounter between the ancient mariner and the wedding guest. How does the wedding guest react?

Ans : The Wedding Guest is forcibly detained by the mariner, who is in no mood to listen to his tale of 'woe' and misery. The Wedding Guest calls the mariner crazy and mad but the mariner holds the guest's hand tightly. The wedding begins and the guest beats his breast but the glittering eyes of the mariner mesmerise him. Later the guest is also involved in this extraordinary story and by the strangeness of the mariner.

5. '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 see.

[C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]

Ans : 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.

6. What happened when the ship sailed into the silent sea?

Ans : The ship was moving calmly and smoothly and they came across the silent sea. The wind stopped blowing, the sails dropped. There was an eerie silence broken only by the talk of the sailors. The sky looked like heated copper. The sun looked red hot like blood. The ship did not move at all and remained stuck like a picture of a ship.

7. '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?

[C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]

Ans : 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.

8. Justify the title of the poem 'Rime of the Ancient Mariner.'

Ans : 'Rime' means 'Rhyme', a poem or a song. Ancient means old, strange or something pertaining to far-off times. The poem has some references to outdated beliefs and practices. The poet has also used some archaic words to make the poem look ancient. The poem deals with the tale of the ancient mariner and all the actions, description relate to the ancient mariner's tale.

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

[C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]

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

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

[C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]

Ans : The ancient mariner had wantonly killed the innocent Albatross who 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.

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. What is the dramatic significance of the role of the albatross in the poem 'Rime of the Ancient Mariner'?

Ans : The albatross is the main pivot on which the whole poem hangs. The poem is an exploration of evil, both that of men and nature and of salvation. The whole poem is based on the christian concept of sin, its punishment and redemption. The albatross is seen as a friendly spirit, a symbol of God's favour, bringing good results. When the mariner kills the albatross, he taints himself with sin and loses connection with God. By destroying God's creature, the mariner is exposed to the darker aspects of God. The albatross also exposes the fickle-minded nature of the sailors. In the end, when the mariner prays, albatross, a symbol of sin falls from him. The mariner is full of God's grace. So the albatross is an instrument to expose the mariner's sin and its redemption.

2. Whom did the mariners hold responsible for their misery? Was it correct to do so?

Ans : When the ancient mariner kills the albatross, the sailors are frightened that great evil will befall them. Killing a bird who brought the south wind and was great company, hurts the sailors very badly. But when no punishment follows the sin, the weather improves and the ship makes great advancement, the sailors change their opinion. But soon punishment follows, nemesis strikes them. The ship gets stuck in the silent sea and cannot move at all for days altogether. Then they undergo spells of thirst and parched throats. They are plagued by the polar spirit for killing the albatross. So they blame the mariner because it is their nature. They are too fickle-minded and have 'herd-mentality'.

3. What is a ballad? Discuss 'Rime of the Ancient Mariner' as a ballad. [C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]

Ans : The poem is written in the style of a lyrical ballad. It is a narrative poem that tells a story, like other ballads. This poem also relates a dramatic story like other ballads. The ballads are also a kind of literary form which are suitable for singing or rhythmic chanting. This poem has a very striking and dramatic beginning in which the Wedding Guest is forcibly detained by the ancient mariner and the dialogues between both of them are very impressive. The language is simple and the use of archaic words by Coleidge adds authenticity to it. So the poem has all the qualities of a ballad and it is very distinguished in all respects.

4. The wedding guest's meek and submissive nature prepares the ground for the ancient mariner's story. Discuss. [C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]

Ans : This contention is true because if the wedding had been very dominating, maybe he would have forced his way to the wedding. But the real truth is that the mesmerizing persona of the ancient mariner and his crazy and loony ways arrest the Wedding Guest. His glittering eyes paralyse the wedding guest. He beats his breast but is not able to get away. Later on the power of the mariner's narrative spellbinds the guest. He is also influenced by the sheer strangeness of the story, it grips him somehow and he does not resist the mariner's force later. So, though the guest is weak, it is the mariner's 'charisma' that holds him.

5. Bring out the theme of crime and punishment in *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*?

Ans : The poem hinges on the nemesis of crime and punishment. Defying God leads to worse results and punishment. The poem is an exploration of evil and of salvation. The slaughtered albatross, emerging spirits from beneath the murky spirits, slimy creatures of the sea, all are images of sin and evil and its consequences. The whole poem is based on the Christian concept of sin, its punishment and redemption. The albatross can be seen as a symbol of God's favour, bringing good results. Killing of God's creature is a sin of the biggest order so the mariner and the crew undergo so many problems. When the mariner prays, the albatross falls off and God's grace shines on them and they are cleansed of their sins.

6. 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner' is a first-person narration of the story. Do you think this technique adds to its effectiveness?

Ans : The first-person narration is very effective in the poem. It not only creates more interest but also serves as an authentic narration. The story told by the mariner creates a personal interest, since it happened to him only. His direct involvement can be seen and how effectively the course of events effected him. The first person narration also gives a direct view of the character of the person, who is telling the story. So we get a clear view of the ancient mariner's character and also get to feel his sorrow, his regret and his repentence with the same intensity.

7. When the Albatross arrived on the ship, the Mariners experienced a sense of joy and were infused with new hope. Comment.
[C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]

Ans : 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 marriners 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.

FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

1. **Read the poem 'Kubla Khan' by S.T. Coleridge in the class.**
2. **What is a supernatural element? Search the Internet and make a Project on the poets adept at the use of supernatural elements in their poems.**
3. **Research other poems famous for the use of "Onomatopoeia" like "The Brook".**
   Read them in the class.
   Make a list of the sound words used.
4. **Coleridge's poem is rich in imagery and known for word-pictures.**
   Compare it with 'Lord Ullin's Daughter' for its pictorial effect.
   Discuss in class. Write a brief description of the place where Mariner's ship was stuck.