

## Find your way through

### ***Part the First***

Complete the following:

There are **two speakers** in this first part:

1. The first voice to be heard is that of .....
2. The second voice to be heard is that of .....

You could argue that there is also a third 'voice'. This is what would (in story terms) be described as the 'narrative voice' – the one that fills in parts of the story for us.

### **A summary of this first part**

An ancient Mariner stopped one of three people who were on their way to a wedding and started to tell this story to a reluctant listener. 'When we set sail and left the harbour, everything was fine and **the sun was shining** but then a dreadful storm came. There was snow and a mist so thick that **we could see nothing through it**. It was freezing and we were surrounded by ice. Eventually an albatross flew through the fog and it seemed a good sign. We fed it and then the ice split open noisily, allowing us to sail on our way. It accompanied us for nine days.' The guest asks why the Mariner has a strange expression on his face and the Mariner replies that he shot the albatross with his crossbow.



1. From the poem, find three words or phrases to describe what the Mariner looks like.
2. From the poem find a quotation that proves that **the sun was shining**.
3. From the poem, find the quotation which proves that **we could see nothing through it**.
4. Coleridge sometimes emphasises **noises** and **sounds**. Answer the next three questions about the noises in the poem.
  - a) Find and quote the description of the sounds that the ice makes when it is surrounding the ship. How does Coleridge use personification to make the ice sound threatening?
  - b) Find and quote the noise that the ice makes when the ship is released from its grip. Because of this description, what sort of noise does Coleridge make the reader hear?
  - c) Find two references to the noises coming from the wedding that the guest is meant to be attending.

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## ***Part the Second***

### **The next part of the mariner's story**

At first, the other sailors were ..... with the Mariner for having killed the bird that made the ..... blow but then, when the fog lifted, the sailors decided that the bird had actually brought not the breezes but the fog; they now ..... the Mariner on his deed. The wind pushed the ship into a ..... sea where the sailors were quickly stranded; the winds died down, and the ship was unable to move. The ocean thickened, and the men had no water to ..... . It was as if the sea were rotting, ..... creatures crawled out of it and walked across the surface. At night, the water burned green, ....., and white with death fire. Some of the sailors dreamed that a spirit, nine ..... deep, followed them beneath the ship from the land of mist and snow. The sailors blamed the Mariner for their ..... and hung the corpse of the Albatross around his neck like a ..... .

**In the above summary, fill in the gaps from these words:**

congratulated	plight	drink	cross	blue
slimy	fathoms	furious	silent	breezes

**Match the terms with the examples:**

**1. Alliteration**

**2. Personification**

**3. Repetition**

**4. Simile**

**5. Internal rhyme**

**a)** 'The water, like a witch's oils'

**b)** 'We were the first that ever burst'

**c)** 'The furrow followed free.'

**d)** 'The sun now rose upon the right:  
Out of the mist came he'

**e)** 'Day after day, day after day'

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### Narrative poems, pace and rhythm

Narrative poems tell stories. In order to drive the story on, it's important to sustain the pace and the rhythm. One way of doing this is by frequently using internal rhyme. There's an example in the table above and here are two more from this section:

'Nor dim nor red like God's own head'  
'The fair breeze blew, the white foam flew'

**Find three more examples of internal rhyme from this section.**

### *Part the Third*

This part of the story has been divided into the following six sentences but they're in the wrong order! Sort them into the correct sequence as it is in the poem.

<b>A</b>	They were playing dice and when the woman won, she whistled three times which seemed to make the day disappear and night to arrive instantly.
<b>B</b>	As it neared them, however, their joy turned to fear as they realised that it was a strange and ghostly ship with two supernatural figures on board.
<b>C</b>	As each man died, his soul raced past the Mariner, reminding him of the speed of his crossbow.
<b>D</b>	Everyone was tired and parched but then the Mariner saw a speck in the distance and joyfully realised that a ship was approaching.
<b>E</b>	As the moon rose, every man on board, one by one, dropped dead, each dying man's eyes full of curses for the Mariner.
<b>F</b>	One was a figure of Death while the other was a woman representing Nightmare Life-in-Death: she was very pale with golden hair and red lips.

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***Part the Fourth***

This has been divided into four sections below. Read the summary of what happens. In the empty boxes, draw a picture to go with the words.

The Wedding-Guest says how frightened he is of the Mariner because he's so thin and gaunt, with strangely glittering eyes. The Mariner assures the Guest that he isn't a ghost.	The Mariner says he was left alone on the ship surrounded by the men's corpses. He tried to pray but couldn't and he felt that the corpses were looking at him with eyes full of curses.
The Moon rose and cast a shadow which was a ghastly red colour. Water snakes moved in the moonlight and the Mariner began to see them as beautiful because they were alive and seemed happy.	The Mariner suddenly blessed these snakes and when he did, he became able to pray and the corpse of the albatross fell from round his neck.

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### Change the following into modern English.

(Your modern version will no longer be poetry and it won't rhyme.) You can change the words and the order and, if necessary, can add a little bit if it helps capture the sense - but you're to keep the meaning the same! One has been done for you as an example.

<i><b>What Coleridge writes</b></i>	<i><b>A modern version</b></i>
<b>The second stanza</b> 'Fear not, fear not, thou Wedding-Guest! This body dropt not down.'	The Ancient Mariner replied, 'Don't be afraid. I'm not dead! I'm not a ghost! I didn't die.'
<b>The eighth stanza</b> 'The look with which they looked on me Had never passed away.'	
<b>The tenth stanza</b> 'The moving Moon went up the sky, And nowhere did abide: Softly she was going up, And a star or two beside.'	

## ***Part the Fifth***

Without the curse of the albatross, the Mariner was able to sleep and then it started to rain. The moon shone, the wind blew and lightning flashed. The corpses all seemed to come alive again and do their work so that the ship made progress. The Wedding-Guest repeats that he is afraid of the Mariner and his ghostly story but the Mariner reassures him that the spirits inside the dead men's corpses were good spirits. As proof, he talks about what happened at dawn, which was that their souls left their bodies making sweet sounds, not curses, as earlier. Surrounded by songs and pleasant sounds, the ship continued on its way but without any wind to make it move: it seemed to be moving from beneath the ship. At noon, however, the ship stopped and stayed where it was, just rocking backwards and forwards until it abruptly sprang forward and the sudden movement made the Mariner faint. He didn't know how long he was unconscious for, but while he was in this state, he heard two voices. One asked if this was the man who had killed the albatross and the other, a softer voice, said that he'd been punished for his guilt and had yet more punishment to face.

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### Questions on this part

1. What does 'Beloved from pole to pole' mean?
2. The summary above says that the wind blew. From the poem, choose a quotation which gives a more detailed description of the wind. Say what impression this description gives you.
3. 'They groaned, they stirred, they all uprose  
Nor spake, nor moved their eyes.'  
Find the **five verbs** in the above two lines. Why does Coleridge have a list of verbs like this? What is the effect as he describes the dead men moving?
4. Explain why the Mariner's nephew is mentioned.
5. In the stanza copied out for you below, the Mariner tries to describe the sweet **sounds** that the good spirits made and how they keep changing:  

'And now twas like all instruments,  
Now like a lonely flute:  
And now it is an angel's song,  
That makes the Heavens be mute.'

In the above stanza, where are the **two similes** and where is the one **metaphor**? Consider each one at a time and say what sound Coleridge is trying to convey to the reader because of how he's described it.

## *Part the Sixth*

1. When the Mariner has finished listening to these two voices, what sort of weather is it and what time?
2. With the breeze, the ship made good progress. Which three things does he see, making him realise that he's home?
3. What does the Mariner see on every corpse on the ship and why does this please the Mariner?
4. Then the Mariner hears oars. Which three people are in the rowing boat which is approaching him?

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***Part the Seventh***

**True or false?**

<b>1.</b> The Hermit on board the rowing boat is a good holy man who likes to talk to people who have voyaged in strange places.	
<b>2.</b> The Mariner hears the people in the rowing boat talking about what a strange ship it is with its thin, ripped sails and its decayed appearance.	
<b>3.</b> The Hermit is scared of the ship's appearance but the Pilot insists that they row out to help it.	
<b>4.</b> The rowing boat rescues the Mariner from his wreck of a ship which immediately sinks.	
<b>5.</b> When the ship sinks, there is a loud sound as a volcano erupts on the hill nearby.	
<b>6.</b> When they reach land, the Mariner tells his tale to the Hermit which makes him feel worse than ever.	
<b>7.</b> Ever since then, says the Mariner, he sometimes is overwhelmed with the agonising feeling that he must tell his story again.	
<b>8.</b> The Mariner says that the best feeling in his life now is to be able to walk into church and pray.	
<b>9.</b> The Wedding-Guest tells the Mariner that it is important to love all creatures great and small because God made them all.	
<b>10.</b> Because he has been able to tell his story to the Wedding-Guest, the Mariner goes on his way and wakes the next morning feeling a sadder and wiser man.	