



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Class: X

QUESTION BANK- THE RIME OF THE ANCIENT MARINER (2025-26)

PART I-SUMMARY

The Ancient Mariner, an old man with a grey beard and a “glittering eye,” stops one out of three young men who are on their way to a wedding. The man whom the Mariner stopped, the Wedding Guest, explains that the wedding is about to start, but the Mariner ignores the wedding guest and begins his tale anyway with the simple line, “There was a ship.” The Wedding Guest tries again to get out of hearing the story, but the Mariner holds him spellbound with his eye, his hand, and his powerful storytelling ability. The Wedding Guest is forced to listen to the Mariner’s tale. The Mariner then launches into the story of his experiences at sea, describing how the ship itself launched into the sea and sailed southward—he indicates the direction by describing the path of the sun. When merry sounds are heard from the wedding feast, the Wedding Guest once more tries to escape the Mariner’s tale, but he remains enthralled. After the Wedding Guest quiets down again, the Mariner’s story moves on to the great storm, which pushed the ship towards the South Pole. There he and the other Sailors are surrounded by ice, mist, and snow. There is a complete lack of life, but also a sense of the sublime in the vast icebergs and glaciers they pass. The only noise is the haunting sound of ice cracking all around the ship. This silence and lack of life is broken, however, by an Albatross, which the crew hails as if it were a Christian soul, and believes to be a sign of good luck. They feed the bird, which follows them and visits to eat and play, and the Sailors all rejoice at the newly blowing wind (which they attribute to the bird) that allows them to begin heading north again. But amidst this joyous celebration of the bird, the Wedding Guest suddenly interjects into the story, revealing that while telling this part of his tale the Mariner looks like he is greatly plagued by fiends. The Mariner then shares his tragic mistake and great sin without giving any indication of the reason he did it: with his cross-bow, he shot the Albatross.

PART II- SUMMARY

The Mariner says that after he shot the Albatross, the ship began sailing northward. While the winds still blow, the Sailors felt the absence of the bird, and they cry out against the Mariner for his hellish deed. But when the mist begins to fade, the Sailors attribute this positive change to the Albatross’s death, and they justify the killing and praise the Mariner for what he did, making themselves accomplices to his crime. For a little while the ship sails with a good breeze and without mist, but suddenly, the wind dies down and the sea becomes extremely calm. Below a “hot and copper sky” and “the bloody Sun,” the Mariner and the Sailors become stranded in the ocean without water. Ironically, they are surrounded by water that they cannot drink, and they become extremely thirsty. Coleridge’s annotation here notes that “the Albatross begins to be avenged.” During this period of dryness, completely stuck and increasingly thirsty, the Mariner cries out to Christ in terror afraid of the slimy creatures crawling on the surface of the sea. These strange creatures give way to the realization that an invisible Spirit, a supernatural being responsible for influencing the natural world, has followed them from the Pole and is plaguing the ship. So thirsty that they cannot speak, the Sailors all give the Mariner evil looks, seeking to “throw the whole guilt” on him for what he did. Thus they decide to hang the body of the dead Albatross, in place of

a cross, around the Mariner's neck.

Reference to Context

A. Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow:

**“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.”**

1. Why is the sun referred to as being glorious?

The Sun is referred to as being glorious because it had just appeared after a long period of time. The atmosphere had been hazy and misty before this.

2. Name a poetic device employed in the above lines.

Simile “Nor dim nor red, like God’s own head.”

3. These lines indicate a change in the sailor’s attitude. What is that change?

The sailors had earlier denounced the killing of the bird since it was believed to be a favourable omen and had led the ice to break and the breeze to blow now, they blamed the bird for bringing the fog and mist.

4. Explain: ‘Glorious sun’ and ‘like God’s own head’.

It is the blazing sun, which is illuminating everyone equally. The halo that surrounds the sun is like the halo that surrounds God’s head. After several days of fog, the sun was shining gloriously.

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

1. In what way does the narrator convey the sense of speed?

The mariner accomplishes this by explaining how the ship moved through the waves, leaving a trail of foam formation on the water’s surface.

2. Name a poetic device employed in the above lines.

Alliteration has been used in the lines “The fair breeze blew, the white foam flew. The furrow followed free”.

3. What happened after this?

The mariners reached the silent sea.

4. Explain: ‘furrow followed free’.

The ship divides the water in half as it sails freely, leaving a furrow in its wake.

**C. “Down dropped the breeze, the sails dropped down,
‘Twas sad as sad could be:
And we did speak only to break
The silence of the sea!”**

1. Why did the sails drop down?

The sails dropped as there was no breeze.

2. What was the sole noise the sailors could hear?

The sound of their own voices was the only sound the sailors could hear.

3. What, in the sailors’ opinion, was the cause of this predicament?

The sailors attributed the predicament to the Ancient Mariner’s killing of the albatross.

4. What effect did it create?

As though life had come to a complete stop, everything stopped, the breeze diminished, and the sails sagged. They were unable to comprehend this abrupt change.

**D. “Day after day, day after day,
We stuck, nor breath nor motion;
As idle as a painted ship
Upon a painted ocean.”**

1. Who was stuck and where?

The Ancient Mariner and his companions were stuck in the middle of the sea.

2. What is the effect of the repetition in the first line?

The first line’s repetition highlights the absence of momentum. The sailors had been marooned in the middle of the sea for a very long period.

3. How does the narrator communicate the idea of being becalmed?

By drawing comparisons between the ship and a still image of a painted ship standing in a painted ocean, the concept of being becalmed, or the completely stationary state, has been conveyed.

4. Explain the phrase: “Painted ship upon a painted ocean”.

The ship was still, the sea was silent, and everything appeared to have been painted.

**E. “Water, water, everywhere,
And all the boards did shrink:
Water, water, everywhere,**

Nor any drop to drink.”.

1.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.

Ans. (b) there is water everywhere yet sailors can't drink it.

2. What sufferings did the sailors undergo?

Overhead, the sun was beaming. It was quite hot. The sailors lacked access to water. The ship was caught in the middle of the ocean with no breeze.

3. What do you mean by shrink?

Shrink means to become smaller in size.

4.At this point of time, the sailors yearned to _____.

- (a) drink water**
- (b) repent
- (c) return home
- (d) move forward

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

- (i) Who does 'he' refer to in the above line?
- (ii) What image does the phrase 'higher and higher' create in the reader's mind?
- (iii) What is the Wedding-Guest doing in the above lines?
- (iv) Why does he 'beat his breast'?

(i) The rising Sun

(ii) It's becoming warmer and warmer

(iii) Listening to the tale /beating his breast

(iv) He has to go and attend the wedding

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

Q1 “The sailors are fickle-minded.” Justify this statement with reference to the poem.

The sailors are confused because at first, they blamed the mariner. Then, they praised him. They thought that the killing of the albatross brought them great woe. When the sun rose they felt he had done the right thing. They did not judge the killing of albatross by any standard of reasoning but by the change in the weather.

Q2 What crime had the mariner committed and how did it prove hellish?

The innocent bird that had brought new hope and the blowing of the south breeze had been killed by the mariner. The Mariners' ship was stranded in the midst of the scorching sea when the bird was killed. They went through a lot of physical and mental suffering because they had no water to drink and no sign of hope to cheer them up.

Q3 How did the sailors react to the killing of the albatross by the ancient mariner?

As a kind of retribution for killing the albatross, the mariner was forced to carry the dead bird. The other sailors were upset with him because they believed the bird to be a gift from God and a sign for their good fortune.

Q4 What is the poet trying to convey through this poem?

Our emotional discomfort is brought on by our careless behaviour. We ought to be a little more courteous and thoughtful of others. If not, we will eventually be made to pay for our wrongdoings. The price we pay for our careless behaviour is the weight of our guilt. Asking for forgiveness by acknowledging our guilt can go a long way towards allowing us to fully redeem ourselves.

Q5 What did the Mariners hang around the speaker's neck and why?

The albatross' dead body was draped over the speaker's neck by the Mariners. They did this to force him to atone for his error. The dead albatross would serve as a persistent reminder of his wrongdoing.

Q6 Who was held responsible for their misery? Was it correct to do so?

They blamed the Ancient Mariner and that he killed the albatross which led to their suffering. The sailors had a point when they held him accountable for their suffering.

Q7 How did the sailors react to the killing of the Albatross by the Ancient Mariner?

First, they blamed him. Then they praised him. They believed that the death of the albatross had caused them considerable suffering. They believed he made the right decision when the sun dawned. They used the weather change instead of any other standard of logic to evaluate the killing of the albatross.

Q8 How did the other Mariners behave towards the Ancient Mariner at first? How many times did they change their mind? What does this tell us about their character?

The Ancient Mariner was initially chastised and vilified by the other sailors for killing the albatross that had caused the breeze to blow. They commended him for killing the bird when the sun rose in the sky. They twice had second thoughts. This demonstrates their poor mentality and gullibility.

Q9 Why does the Ancient Mariner compel the wedding guest to listen to his story?

The fact that the Ancient Mariner had killed the albatross bird had caused him much distress. He felt prompted by his shame to tell the wedding guest about his experience since he thought that confessing his wrongdoing would result in its atonement.

Q10 The crew hangs the albatross around the sailor's neck. What was the significance of this act?

When the crew became lost in the polar zone, the albatross started to pursue the ship. It was welcomed with tremendous jubilation and hospitality and was seen as auspicious. In a fit of

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rage, the Ancient Mariner shot the albatross with a crossbow. It was believed that doing so would curse the ship, which did experience awful misfortunes.

Q11 Why did the Ancient Mariner shoot the albatross?

The albatross was a sociable animal. Every day, it went to the ship to eat and play. He was murdered by the Mariner with his bow and arrow. It was a hasty action. The mariner might have been wary of the bird's persistent presence. It wasn't a planned action.

Q12 How did the Ancient Mariner move to hold back the wedding guest?

With his intense gaze, the Mariner hypnotised the wedding guest. The visitor, terrified by the Mariner's peculiar demeanour, remained still throughout the story like a three-year-old who was not present for the wedding.

Q13 Why did the sailor hail the albatross in 'God's name'?

The albatross is referred to as the Christian soul in The Rime of the Ancient Mariner. It appeared out of nowhere, so it was praised in God's name. The seafarers thought it was a lifesaver. The icebergs began to break after the albatross arrived, allowing the ship to go forward.

Q14 Why was The Ancient Mariner made to carry the dead Albatross around his neck?

As retribution for killing the albatross, the mariner was forced to carry the dead bird. They believed the bird was sent by God and brought them good omen; the other sailors were upset with him.

Q15 Why does the wedding guest beat his breast while listening to the Ancient Mariner's story?

The wedding guest beat his breast because he could hear the music and the merry sounds at the wedding announcing the arrival of the bride. He was getting delayed by the story of the Mariner. He was held to the spot by the hypnotizing effect of the Mariner's glittering eyes.

Q16.What were the blessings the albatross brought with it?

The albatross was considered as a bird of good omen and as a spirit of Christ which had come to help them. When the albatross appeared, the ship was surrounded by massive icebergs but soon the good South Wind blew, the ice cracked and they were able to move out.

Q17.How did the mariners enjoy the arrival of the albatross?

The mariners enjoyed the arrival of albatross because its arrival was marked by the beginning of good south wind which helped them by cracking of the icebergs and making a way out for them from the land of ice. It helped their ship move to the right path.

Q18. Interpret imagery and symbolism in The Rime of the Ancient Mariner, as elements that contribute to the poem's overarching themes of retribution and redemption.

The albatross, initially a symbol of nature's grace, becomes a burden when the Mariner kills it, representing his guilt. The ship's desolate imagery and the ghostly events reflect

retribution for his actions. The eventual removal of the albatross and the Mariner's compulsion to share his tale symbolise redemption, illustrating his transformation through suffering and penance.

Q19. How were the mariners saved from the land of ice and snow?

When the sea water froze and the ship was surrounded by icebergs from all sides, the mariners lost their hope of survival. They thought that they would die of starvation and thirst after consuming their limited food and water. All of a sudden, there came an albatross piercing the fog and the mist. Its arrival proved auspicious and ice began to melt. Their crewmen started steering the ship and the mariners were saved.

Q20. How were the mariners trapped in the South Pole?

The mariner had commenced his voyage in a very favourable weather condition. The fellow mariners were also very excited and happy. All of a sudden there came a storm and it was very powerful and tyrannous. It struck the ship as if it had wings and had overtaken it with its immense power. It chased the ship towards the south and the mariner reached the south pole.

Q21. In the poem, 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner', what opinion do you form of the other crew members on the ship with the Ancient Mariner? Why?

The other crew members were fickle minded as they kept changing their statements or decisions according to the circumstances, superstitions and religious views.

Q1 Answer the following by choosing the right option from those given below:

1. The Ancient Mariner stopped one of the three wedding guests because.....

- A he wanted to attend the wedding with him
- B he wanted him to sit with him
- C he wanted him to listen to his story
- D he wanted to stop him from going to the wedding

Ans. C he wanted him to listen to his story

2. The wedding guest remarked that he was 'next of kin' It meant that

- A he was a close relation of the bridegroom
- B he was a close relation of the bride
- C he was next in line to get married
- D he had to stand next to the bridegroom during the wedding

Ans. A he was a close relation of the bridegroom

3. 'He cannot choose but hear' means.....

- A 'the mariner was forced to hear the story of the wedding guest.'
- B 'the wedding guest was forced to hear the story of the mariner.'

C 'the mariner had the choice of not listening to the story of the wedding guest.'

D 'the wedding guest had the choice of not listening to the story of the mariner.'

Ans. B 'the wedding guest was forced to hear the story of the mariner.'

4. The Wedding-Guest beat his breast because.....

A he could hear the sound of the bassoon

B he was forced to listen to the Mariner's tale when he wanted to attend the wedding

C 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.

D the sound of the bassoon announced the arrival of the bride and the start of the wedding ceremony

Ans. C 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.

5. The storm blast had been described as being tyrannous because.....

A it was so fierce that it frightened the sailors

B it took complete control of the ship

C the storm was very powerful

D the sailors were at its mercy

Ans. B it took complete control of the ship

6. The sailors felt depressed on reaching the land of mist and snow because.....

A there was no sign of any living creature

B they felt they would die in that cold weather

C they were surrounded by icebergs and there seemed to be no sign of life

D everything was grey in colour and they felt very cold

Ans. C they were surrounded by icebergs and there seemed to be no sign of life

7. The sailors were happy to see the albatross because.....

A it was the first sign of life and therefore gave them hope that they might survive

B it split the icebergs around the ship and helped the ship move forward.

C it was a messenger from God and it lifted the fog and mist.

D it gave them hope of survival by splitting the icebergs.

Ans. C it was a messenger from God and it lifted the fog and mist.

8. The two things that happened after the arrival of the albatross were

A the icebergs split and the albatross became friendly with the sailors

B the icebergs split and a strong breeze started blowing

C the ship was pushed out of the land of mist and the ice melted.

D the albatross started playing with the mariners and ate the food they offered.

Ans. B the icebergs split and a strong breeze started blowing

9. 'It perched for vespers nine' means.....

- A the ship stopped sailing at nine o'clock every day
- B the albatross would appear at a fixed time every day.
- C the albatross would sit on the sail or the mast everyday
- D the albatross was a holy creature

Ans. B the albatross would appear at a fixed time every day.

10. 'God save thee, ancient Mariner, /From the fiends that plague thee thus!- Why look'st thou so?' means.....

- A the mariner wanted to know why the wedding guest was looking so tormented
- B the wedding guest wanted to know why the mariner was looking so tormented
- C the wedding guest wanted to know whether some creatures were troubling the ancient mariner
- D the ancient mariner wanted to know whether something was troubling the wedding guest

Ans. B the wedding guest wanted to know why the mariner was looking so tormented

Q1 Why does the crew hang the albatross around the Mariner's neck?

The breeze that once carried the sails has stopped, and the vengeance for the albatross' death has begun. No one could drink the water, and slimy monsters were sprouting from the decaying sea. As an expression of their guilt for their situation, the crew forces the albatross to hang around the Ancient Mariner's neck. The crew thought they were being followed by the albatross' ghost pursuing them and being the root of their current problems.

Q2 Examine the ideas of crime and punishment in the poem.

Without giving a good cause, the Mariner killed the albatross. This killing of the harmless bird infuriated the sailors. But once the fog cleared, they claimed that killing the bird responsible for the fog and mist was the right decision. They begin to applaud the act of murdering the bird and join forces in crime rather than denouncing it. As the winds calm down and they become stranded aboard the ship, without any water to drink and feel as though they are choking in soot, they feel that they are being punished by God for their transgression. With the albatross's weight around his neck, the sailors punished the Ancient Mariner. The value that this incident provides is that harming an innocent creature has terrible repercussions.

Q3 Write the theme of 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner'.

The theme of "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" is, in reality, weaved throughout the entire narrative. It is also easily understood through the symbolic representation of the bird Albatross, other seafarers, and the Ancient Mariner. Sea becomes another symbol. The poem is based on the idea of sin and atonement. The old mariner's remorse at killing the albatross, which he considers to be sin, haunts him in the shape of odd natural and paranormal occurrences. He changes his mind and regrets his conduct after one horrific incident. The theme of The Rime of the Ancient Mariner is sin and natural forces' retaliation. When the innocent Albatross is killed, the Ancient Mariner sins. His shipmates initially become furious with him for this callous deed. However, they defend the killing when they discover that the weather has improved since the albatross was killed. As a result, they join the Ancient Mariner in committing a crime. Natural forces exact revenge

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for this crime and calm the ship. There was no water to drink, and it was extremely hot. The sailors suffered a great deal.

Q4 What is the poet trying to convey through this poem?

We are forced to bear the repercussions of our careless acts whenever we act or behave in a careless manner. Our own conscience is the one that holds us accountable. We struggle to find joy. Our daily lives become challenging. As the saying goes, “A continual Christmas is a clear conscience.” We only confess our sins once it is too late. You cannot reverse what has already been done. A heart burdened with guilt is denied the simple joys of happiness. He walks around with a lowered head when he knows he has sinned. Part of one’s penance is to share one’s guilt. Accepting responsibility for one’s actions equates to innocence. A person who feels guilty wants to share their suffering and wanders around seeking a sympathetic ear. He may feel lighter after doing this. The anguish can be eased by acknowledging one’s error, pleading for pardon, and making a firm commitment never to repeat the wrong. The sinner is also redeemed by confession of sin.

Q5. No sinful action can ever go without its consequences. What consequences does the Ancient Mariner have to face as a result of his sinful action?

The poem, *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, deals a cruel mariner who did the ghastly act of killing the albatross. As a result, he landed himself in such a situation that all the sailors blamed him for the problem they faced during their voyage and hung the dead albatross around his neck to remind him of his sinful act. Through the poem, Coleridge wants to say that we are paid back in the same coin. The mariner was being tormented and the only way to lessen this torment was by sharing the incident with someone and to do the same, he stopped one of the wedding guests and told him the story. Thus, since that day, the mariner has been living a life of guilt and looking to expiate his sin.

Q6. What traits of the ancient mariner’s character are revealed in the poem, “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner”?

The protagonist of the poem is feeble, frail and skinny owing to his old age. He is neither considerate nor positive in his attitude. Being cruel and short tempered he kills an innocent bird without any provocation. Being Selfish, he compels others to listen to his story so that he can get his sin reduced by making confession. He has learnt magic for getting his work done according to his own wish and desire.