***The Rime of the Ancient Mariner***

**Part I**

1. What is the rhyme scheme? What is the significance of such a rhyme scheme?

2. What is the significance that the Mariner chose “one of three” who were attending a wedding?

3. The Wedding Guest says, “unhand me” to the Mariner, and the old sailor lets go of the young man, but the Mariner continues to “hold” the Wedding Guest under his spell with what?

1. As the Mariner is compelled to tell his strange story of a sea voyage, he explains his ship was blown off course to the South Pole by a storm and ended up surrounded by ice; *what happened that is associated with making the ice split*?
2. Initially, how did the crew receive the “Albatross?
3. How do we know the crew associated the Albatross with salvation?
4. How long did the Albatross hang out with the crew?
5. What brought about the death of the Albatross?
6. What is the effect of personifying the wind in Part I?
7. What lines were meant to stimulate sensory perceptions?

Imagery (sight/vision):

Hearing/audibility:

1. Re-read the last stanza of Part I. What is the effect of the dramatic dialogue in these lines? How is the effect climactic?

**Part II**

1. The crew was shocked at first saying the Mariner had killed the bird that made the breeze to blow; however, *what was their next reaction*?
2. What is the significance of lines in stanza 9? And how is it possible that these lines foreshadow the overwhelming effects of the Industrial Revolution?
3. The Mariner says the ship and crew were followed ever since the murder of the

Albatross; what followed them and why?

4. Why do you think the crew was cursed too?

5. What was done to the Mariner to show or represent his guilt?

1. Explain the juxtaposition (contrast) between stanza 3 and stanza 4. What does this contrast suggest about human nature as humans perceive the world around them?
2. Explain the juxtaposition (contrast) between “The glorious Sun uprist” (stanza 4) and “The bloody Sun, at noon” (stanza 7). What is the significance of how the sun is perceived by the same people?

**Part III**

1. Why did the Mariner bite into his arm and suck out his blood?

2. What is a personification of death and contagion (disease) in Part III?

3. Life in Death rolls dice with her mate, Death…she wins the Mariner, and Death wins the crew; the crew look at the Mariner and curse him with their eyes and die; the Mariner says their souls did from their bodies fly and fled to bliss or woe. *What does the Mariner mean by bliss or woe*?

1. What is the effect of the imagery in stanza 8? (Note how the description creates a “prison” as the Ghost ship comes between the Mariner’s ship and the sun.)
2. What is the effect of the imagery in stanza 9?

**Part IV**

* 1. For a moment, the Wedding Guest is horrified by the Mariner…he says he fears “thy skinny hand,” in other words he doesn’t want the Mariner to touch him at all! *Why so*?
  2. Re-read stanza 4. What may be the significance that the Mariner feels unworthy but he believes the “slimy things” are unworthy, too?

3. Re-read stanza 6. How do these lines portray the Mariner’s loss of spirituality?

1. Re-read the last two stanzas. Support this statement with evidence from the text: The Mariner has become a dynamic character as he had made an internal change.

**Part V**

* + 1. What might the rain represent in Part V?
    2. What happened to the crew in Part V?
  1. The Polar Spirit follows the command of the angelic troop, but there is still a price to pay. What is the meaning of “The man hath penance done, And penance more will do.”

**Part VI**

1. What stood atop each dead crewmember before it ascended to Heaven?

2. The Mariner wanted whom to shrieve his soul? Shrieve means to hear a confession & pronounce absolution (forgiveness).

**Part VII**

1. Explain line, “The ship went down like lead.” Why would this occur at this moment in the poem?

2. Where did the Wedding Guest go after hearing the Mariner, and why is he a “sadder and a wiser man”?

3. How does the Albatross serve as a Christ-like figure in this poem?