

CBSE TEST PAPER-03
Class - 10 English Communicative
(The Rime of Ancient Mariner)

1. Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow:

Ah! Well-a-day! What evil looks
Had I from old and young!
Instead of the cross, the Albatross
About my neck was hung.”

- a. What is an albatross?
- b. Who did the mariners feel was responsible for their sufferings?
- c. What was the condition of the sailors?
- d. What were they giving him?

OR

Water, water, everywhere,
And all the boards did shrink;
Water, water everywhere,
Nor any drop to drink.

- a. ‘Water, water everywhere’-What is meant by this expression?
- b. Why was there no drop to drink?
- c. What do you mean by ‘Shrink’?
- d. Identify the poetic device in the above stanza?

2. Answer the following questions in 30-40 words each:

- a. “The sailors are fickle-minded.” Justify this statement with reference to the poem.
- b. Why did the Albatross follow the ship?
- c. How does the mariner express the fact that the ship was completely surrounded by icebergs?
- d. What or who did the mariners feel was responsible for their suffering?

3. Answer any one of the following questions in 80-100 words:

What impression do you form of the sailors in the poem?

OR

Do you think the title of the poem to be apt? Why/Why not? Justify your answer.

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[Answers]

1. (i) Answers

- a. An albatross is a great, White Sea bird.
- b. The mariner who had killed the innocent albatross was responsible for their misery. All the sailors felt he had brought them sufferings.
- c. They could not speak. It seemed all of them were waiting for their death.
- d. They were giving him evil looks.

1. (ii) Answers

- a. There was water all around and they were stranded in the middle of the sea.
- b. There were no favourable winds. The sun became unbearably hot just as the sailors ran out of the water.
- c. 'Shrink' means to become short.
- d. It is repetition.

2. Answers

- a. The sailors were angry with the Ancient Mariner for killing the innocent Albatross. Later when the weather was changing the sailors also changed their opinion. They were fickle-minded people and they said that the Mariner did a good job by killing the Albatross as it had brought the mist.
- b. The Albatross followed the ship because the sailors had given the food they had. Moreover the sailors considered the Albatross as a bird of good omen who guided the ship out of the land of mist and snow. They liked the bird and they played with it.
- c. The part of the sea was full of snow and glistening green ice bergs as tall as the ships mast. It was the land of mist and snow. Huge icebergs surrounded the sea. The ice cracked, growled and howled and it held the ship at one place.
- d. The Mariner felt that the killing of the Albatross has caused the suffering. The mariner, who had killed the bird for no reason, was held responsible.

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3. Two hundred seamen set sail with the Ancient Mariner one clear, sunny day and find themselves in the icy world of the “rime” after a storm, from which the Albatross frees them. They feed and play with the Albatross until the Ancient Mariner kills it. They begin to suffer from heat and thirst. They hang the dead Albatross around the Ancient Mariner’s neck to punish him. There is a notion among the people that the sailors give importance to sentiment. They are a bundle of many superstitions. I feel the sailors are fickle-minded. They are not trust worthy and are cowards. When the Ancient Mariner kills the bird, they condemn the killing of the bird of good omen. They are afraid that some misery will be on them. But, when nothing of the sort happens, they change their mind. They now hold the Albatross responsible for the fog and the mist and justify the killing so I feel they are also equally sinful. But when the ship stranded due to hot and sultry weather, the mariners restarted blaming the ancient Mariner for their miseries. They put the dead bird around the Mariner’s neck as he committed the sin. The Mariner goes insane after this incident.

OR

3. The title of the poem is very apt. The meaning of the word ‘rhyme’ is a poem, song or ballad. The Mariner is old, so he is called the Ancient Mariner. But the word ‘ancient’ also indicates that the mariner belongs to old times. The poem begins with the ancient Mariner’s narration of the story, of his sin, punishment and telling the story to the Wedding Guest. The whole poem moves around the Mariner’s killing of the innocent Albatross. The killing of the bird brings miseries and agony to the sailors. The fellow sailors think that their misery is the result of the wrongful killing of the bird. So, the fellow sailors hang the dead Albatross around the Mariner’s neck as a mark of his in a guilt. But the fact is the mental agony of the killing of the bird is very heavy and he wanted to get solace by narrating his woeful story to the Wedding guest. The poem’s protagonist Ancient Mariner is unnaturally old, with skinny, deeply-tanned limbs and “glittering eyes.” It is about sin and redemption. The entire poem is about the Ancient Mariner and he is compelled to share his story with someone, he feels a physical agony that is abated only temporarily once he finishes telling the tale. I feel the title is very apt after taking all the above points into account.