

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner

By: Samuel Taylor Coleridge

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

wherefore:
why

The Wedding-Guest sat on a stone:
He cannot choose but hear;
And thus spake on that ancient man,
The bright-eyed Mariner.

kirk: a
church

"The ship was cheered, the harbour cleared,
Merrily did we drop
Below the **kirk**, below the hill,
the lighthouse top.

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.

**Christian
soul:** a
helpful,
good-
hearted
creature

At length did cross an Albatross,
Through the fog it came;
As it had been a **Christian soul**,
We hailed it in God's name.

helmsman:
person who
steers the
ship

It ate the food it ne'er had eat,
And round and round it flew.
The ice did split with a thunder-fit;
Our **helmsman** steered us through!

"God saved thee, ancient Mariner,
From the fiends that plagued thee thus!
Why look'st thou so?" -"With my crossbow
I shot the Albatross."

averred:
stated

"And I had done a hellish thing,
And it would work 'em woe:
For all **averred**, I had killed the bird
That made the breeze to blow.
Ah wretch! said they, you slayed the bird,
That made the breeze to blow!

All in a hot and copper sky,
The bloody sun, at noon,
Right up above the mast did stand,
No bigger than the moon.

**Iron Maiden's version of this poem did not include these stanzas that give more exposition to the story. What advantage is there in having more exposition to a story?

What disadvantage is there in having more exposition to a story?

**Circle the line/lines where you see the INCITING EVENT--the event that causes the entire conflict of the story.

I looked to heaven, and tried to pray;
But or ever a prayer had gushed,
A wicked whisper came and made
My heart as dry as dust.

An orphan's curse would drag to hell
A spirit from on high;
But oh! more horrible than that
Is the curse in a dead man's eye!
Seven days, seven nights, I saw that curse,
And yet I could not die.

Beyond the shadow of the ship
I watched the water-snakes:
They moved in tracks of shining white,
And when they reared, the elfish light
Fell off in tiny flakes.

O happy living things! No tongue
Their beauty might declare:
A spring of love gushed from my heart,
And I blessed them unaware:

That same moment I could pray;
And from my neck so free
The Albatross fell off, and sank
Like lead into the sea."

And soon I heard a roaring wind:
It did not come near;
But with its sound it shook the sails,
That were so thin and sere.

But soon I heard the dash of oars,
I heard the Pilot's cheer;
My head was turned **perforce** away,
And I saw a boat appear.

The boat came closer to the ship,
But I nor spake nor stirred;
The boat came close beneath the ship,
And straight a sound was heard.

Under the water it rumbled on,
Still louder and more dread:
It reached the ship, it split the bay;
The ship went down like lead.
My body lay afloat;
But swift as dreams, myself I found

Explain how the Mariner's attitude toward nature has changed from the first page of this poem. What has caused this change in his attitude? Cite textual evidence to support your answer.

perforce:
out of
necessity

Within the Pilot's boat.

And now, all in my own country,
I stood on the firm land!
The Hermit stepped forth from the boat,
And scarcely he could stand.

O shrieve me, shrieve me, holy man!
The Hermit crossed his brow.
'Say quick,' quote he 'I bid thee say -
What kind of man art thou?'

forthwith: **Forthwith** this frame of mine was wrenched
immediately With a woeful agony,
Which forced me to begin my tale;
And then it left me free.

Since then, at an uncertain hour,
That agony returns;
And till my ghastly tale is told,
This heart within me burns.

Farewell, farewell! but this I tell
To thee, thou Wedding-Guest!
He prayeth well, who loveth well
Both man and bird and beast.

He prayeth best, who loveth best
All things both great and small;
For the dear God who loveth us,
He made and loveth all."

The Mariner, whose eye is bright,
Whose beard with age is grey,
Is gone; and now the Wedding-Guest
Turned and walked away.

forlorn: sad and lonely He went like one that hath been stunned,
And is of sense **forlorn:**
A sadder and a wiser man
He rose the morrow morn.

On this page, the Mariner's conflict in this story is finally resolved. Circle the line/lines where you see the RESOLUTION--the part of the story where the conflict is resolved.

Which version of this narrative poem does the best job of demonstrating to you the theme of "Nature should be respected and appreciated." Explain your answer using specific textual evidence.
