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The Ancient Mariner	عنوان المحاضرة باللغة الإنكليزية
Alexander, L.G. <i>Poetry and Prose Appreciation for Overseas Students</i> Londod: Longman, 1971.	المراجع والمصادر
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Coleridge's "The Ancient Mariner" *A Critical Analysis*

The fair breeze blew, the white foam flew,

The furrow followed free;

We were the first that ever burst

Into that silent sea.

A favourable gentle wind blew. The white foam flew off the surface of the ocean. The ship sailed onward calmly and the track made by it was clearly visible. It seemed to them that they were the first people who had ever come to that silent sea. There is a use of alliteration in the first two lines of this stanza. There is a repetition of 'F' and 'b' sounds which creates a musical effect besides conveying the idea of the smooth and swift gliding movement of the ship whereas the use of the word 'furrow' illustrate metaphor in this stanza. And the word furrow refers to the splitting of water caused behind a ship due to its forward movement. The line 'The furrow followed free' suggests that the ship sailed on smoothly.

Down dropt the breeze, the sails dropt down,

**'Twas sad as sad could be;
And we did speak only to break**

The silence of the sea!

The wind stopped blowing. The sails too dropped. There was complete silence all around. It was a very sad situation. The eerie silence of the sea was broken only by the sailors' talk. The 'breeze' had stopped blowing because the Albatross's wrongful killing had begun to show its effects. The ancient Mariner and his fellow sailors are about to be punished for the 'sin'. It is to be noted that lines in this para create an atmosphere of eerie silence and absolute inactivity. The atmosphere leaves the sailors full of suspense, fear and uncertainty.

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

The sky looked like heated copper. The sun looked blood red. Even at noon, it stood vertically above the mast and looked as small as the moon. Again there is a use of metaphor in this stanza when the poet says: 'a hot and copper sky' and 'The bloody Sun'. The sun is blazing red and scorching hot. It is also 'blood' red in colour, hence it has been called 'bloody sun'. To the sailors, the harsh weather signifies that they have to face and suffer under this type of weather due to the 'sin' of killing of Albatross. It is a part of the punishment they being subjected to. These lines also tell about the location of the ship. The ship is on or near the equator because the sun is very harsh and is at a vertical angle at noon – a phenomenon that occurs in the equatorial region only.

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

The ship remained stuck at one place day after day. It did not move because there was neither wind nor tide. It looked just like the picture of a ship on the sea. The ancient Mariner and his fellow sailors on board their ship were stuck in the middle of the silent sea. And they were brought into this condition because the mariners had drifted into the silent sea where there was neither wind nor tide, hence they were stranded there. There is a use of simile in the last two lines of this stanza. It graphically describes the pictures of

a becalmed ship on a silent and still ocean. Hence, it is very apt, and the repetition conveys the sheer length of time the sailors' ship was stuck up in the middle of the ocean.

Water, water, everywhere,

And all the boards did shrink;

Water, water, everywhere,

Nor any drop to drink.

The Mariner says that though the ship was surrounded by water all sides yet the very boarder of the ship began to crack and shrink because of the excessive heat. They were in the midst of so much water, but there wasn't even a drop they could drink. These lines have the repetition of 'w' sound, while the repetition of the line: 'Water, water, everywhere,' signifies the peculiar fate the sailors had to face. Although they were surrounded by immeasurable amount of sea water, they had not a drop of water to wet their parched mouths. The repetition gauges the extent of their misery. And the sailors have 'not a drop' to drink because their supply of fresh water was exhausted and they simply could not drink the salty sea water.

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