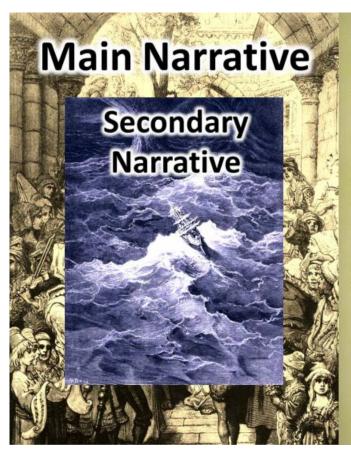
Introduction



"The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" by Samuel Taylor Coleridge is a frame story, or a story within a story. The main narrative revolves around a young man who is stopped on his way to a wedding feast and hears the tale of an old mariner. The adventures of the ancient mariner make up the secondary narrative.

In this interactivity, retell the poem's story by dragging and dropping the phrase that correctly completes the sentence. The main narrative has gold illustrations and the secondary narrative has blue illustrations. Once you have selected the correct phrase, you will be able to click **NEXT** to continue.

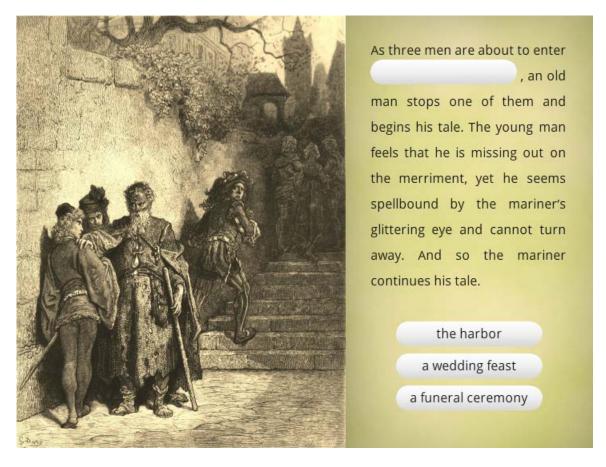
Click **NEXT** to begin.

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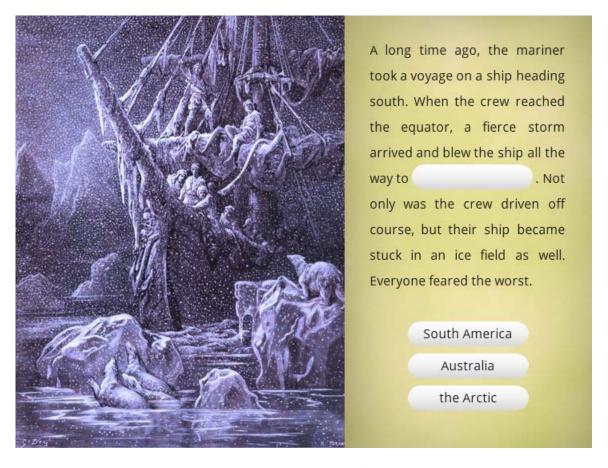




As three men are about to enter _____, an old man stops one of them and begins his tale. The young man feels that he is missing out on the merriment, yet he seems spellbound by the mariner's glittering eye and cannot turn away. And so the mariner continues his tale.

- a) the harbor
- b) a wedding feast
- c) a funeral ceremony

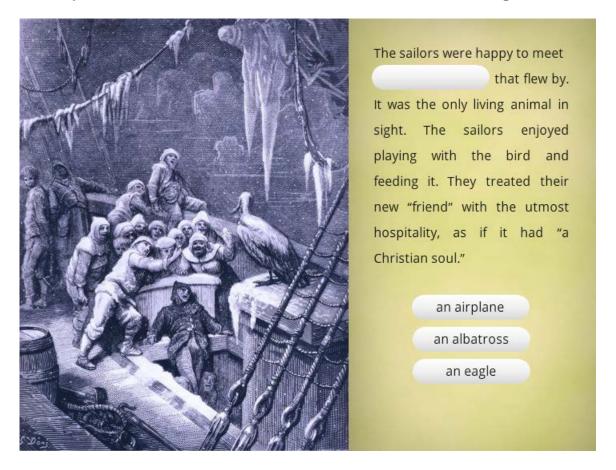




A long time ago, the mariner took a voyage on a ship heading south. When the crew reached the equator, a fierce storm arrived and blew the ship all the way to _____. Not only was the crew driven off course, but their ship became stuck in an ice field as well. Everyone feared the worst.

- a) South America
- b) Australia
- c) the Arctic

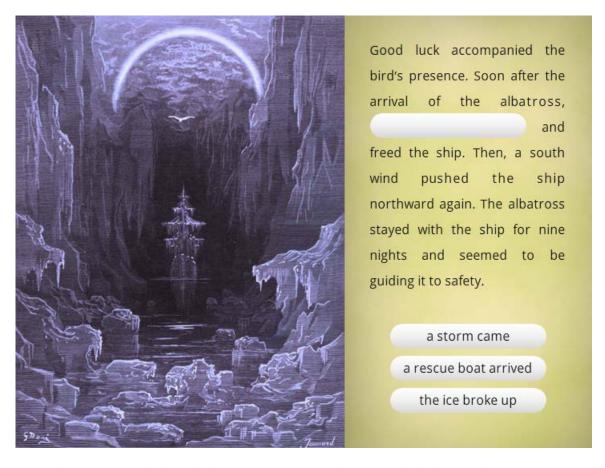




The sailors were happy to meet _____ that flew by. It was the only living animal in sight. The sailors enjoyed playing with the bird and feeding it. They treated their new "friend" with the utmost hospitality, as if it had "a Christian soul."

- a) an airplane
- b) an albatross
- c) an eagle

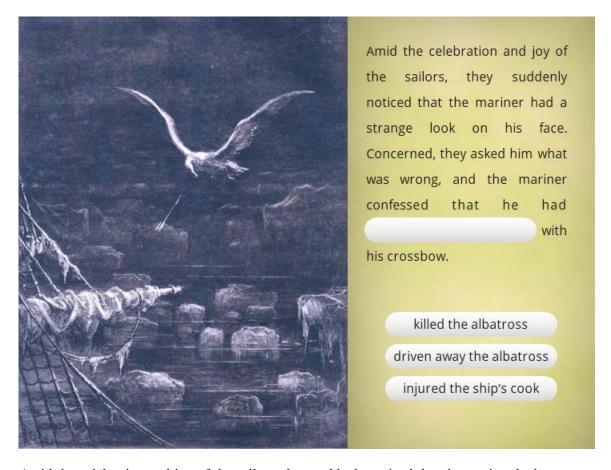




Good luck accompanied the bird's presence. Soon after the arrival of the albatross, ____ and freed the ship. Then, a south wind pushed the ship northward again. The albatross stayed with the ship for nine nights and seemed to be guiding it to safety.

- a) a storm came
- b) a rescue boat arrived
- c) the ice broke up

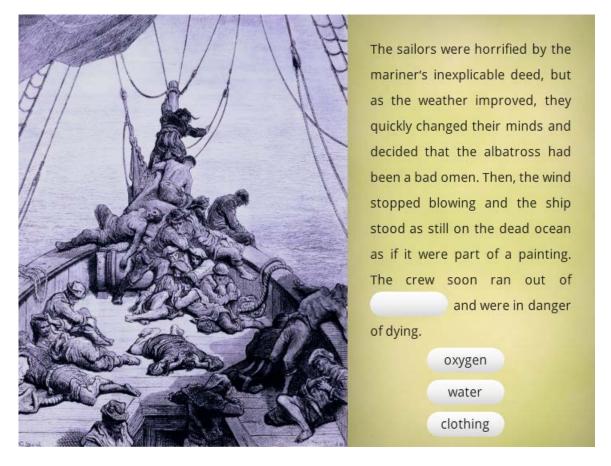




Amid the celebration and joy of the sailors, they suddenly noticed that the mariner had a strange look on his face. Concerned, they asked him what was wrong, and the mariner confessed that he had _____ with his crossbow.

- a) killed the albatross
- b) driven away the albatross
- c) injured the ship's cook

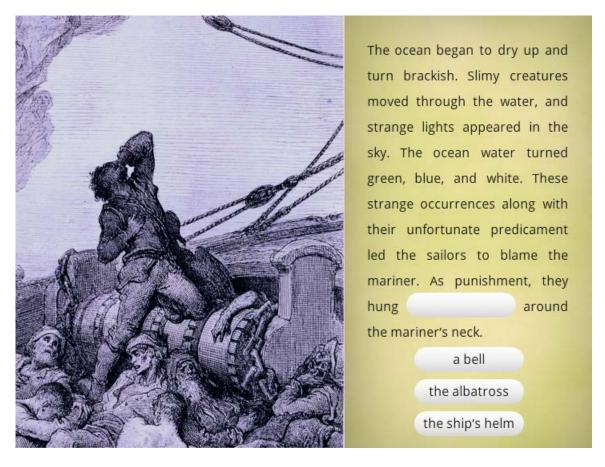




The sailors were horrified by the mariner's inexplicable deed, but as the weather improved, they quickly changed their minds and decided that the albatross had been a bad omen. Then, the wind stopped blowing and the ship stood as still on the dead ocean as if it were part of a painting. The crew soon ran out of _____ and were in danger of dying.

- a) oxygen
- b) water
- c) clothing

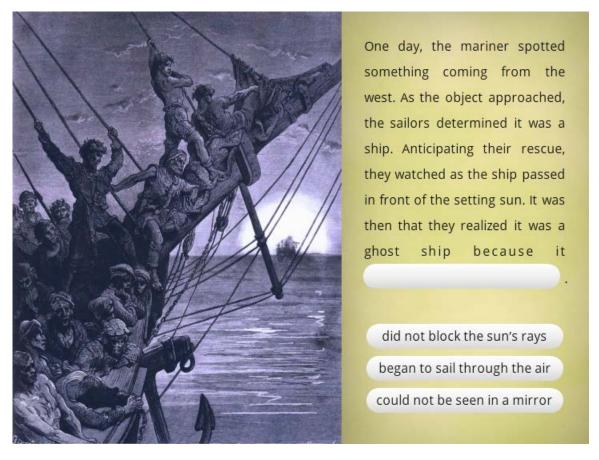




The ocean began to dry up and turn brackish. Slimy creatures moved through the water, and strange lights appeared in the sky. The ocean water turned green, blue, and white. These strange occurrences along with their unfortunate predicament led the sailors to blame the mariner. As punishment, they hung _____ around the mariner's neck.

- a) a bell
- b) the albatross
- c) the ship's helm

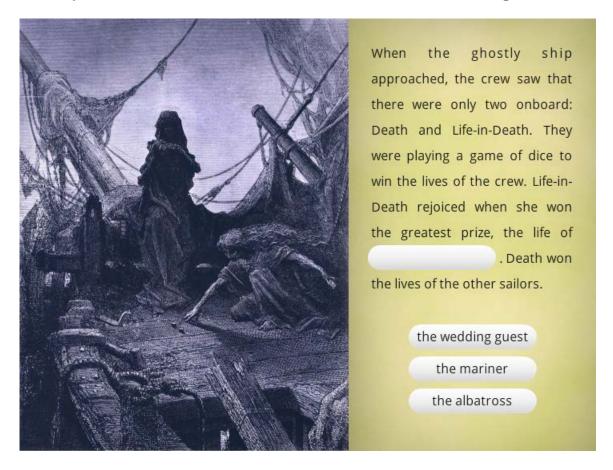




One day, the mariner spotted something coming from the west. As the object approached, the sailors determined it was a ship. Anticipating their rescue, they watched as the ship passed in front of the setting sun. It was then that they realized it was a ghost ship because it _____.

- a) did not block the sun's rays
- b) began to sail through the air
- c) could not be seen in a mirror

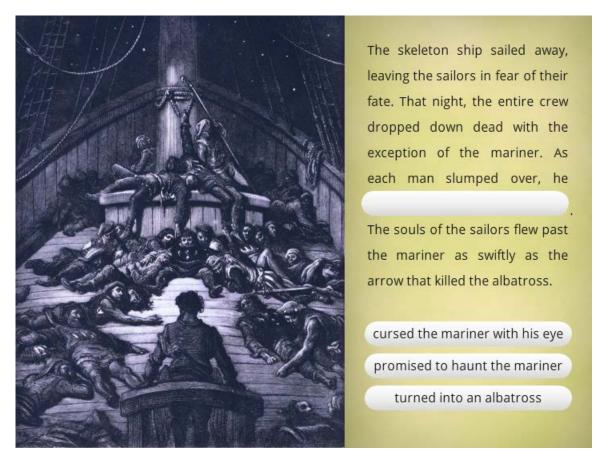




When the ghostly ship approached, the crew saw that there were only two onboard: Death and Life-in-Death. They were playing a game of dice to win the lives of the crew. Life-in-Death rejoiced when she won the greatest prize, the life of _____. Death won the lives of the other sailors.

- a) the wedding guest
- b) the mariner
- c) the albatross

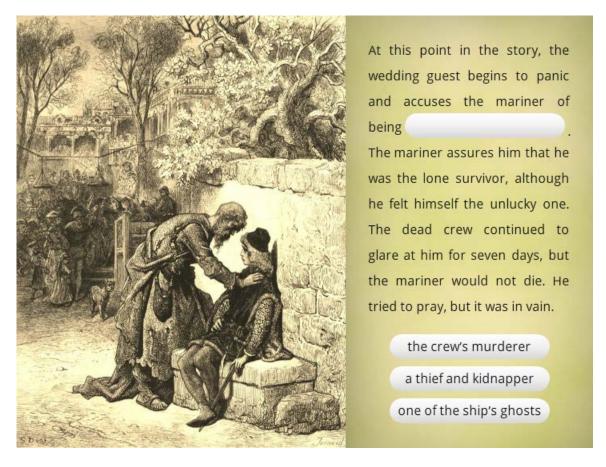




The skeleton ship sailed away, leaving the sailors in fear of their fate. That night, the entire crew dropped down dead with the exception of the mariner. As each man slumped over, he _____. The souls of the sailors flew past the mariner as swiftly as the arrow that killed the albatross.

- a) cursed the mariner with his eye
- b) promised to haunt the mariner
- c) turned into an albatross

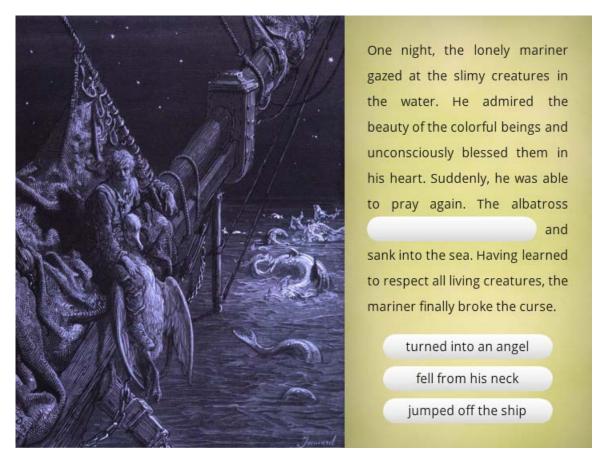




At this point in the story, the wedding guest begins to panic and accuses the mariner of being _____. The mariner assures him that he was the lone survivor, although he felt himself the unlucky one. The dead crew continued to glare at him for seven days, but the mariner would not die. He tried to pray, but it was in vain.

- a) the crew's murderer
- b) a thief and kidnapper
- c) one of the ship's ghosts

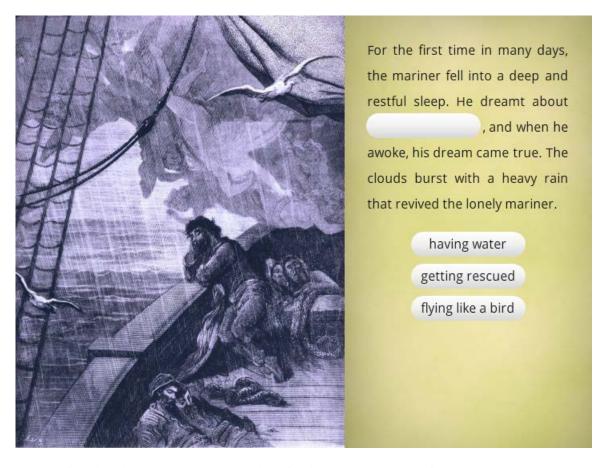




One night, the lonely mariner gazed at the slimy creatures in the water. He admired the beauty of the colorful beings and unconsciously blessed them in his heart. Suddenly, he was able to pray again. The albatross _____ and sank into the sea. Having learned to respect all living creatures, the mariner finally broke the curse.

- a) turned into an angel
- b) fell from his neck
- c) jumped off the ship

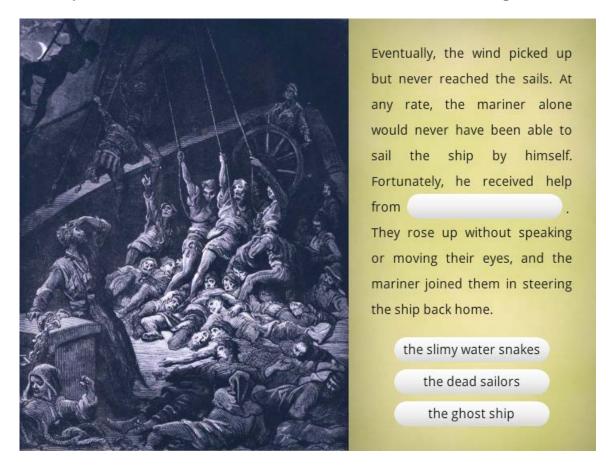




For the first time in many days, the mariner fell into a deep and restful sleep. He dreamt about _____, and when he awoke, his dream came true. The clouds burst with a heavy rain that revived the lonely mariner.

- a) having water
- b) getting rescued
- c) flying like a bird

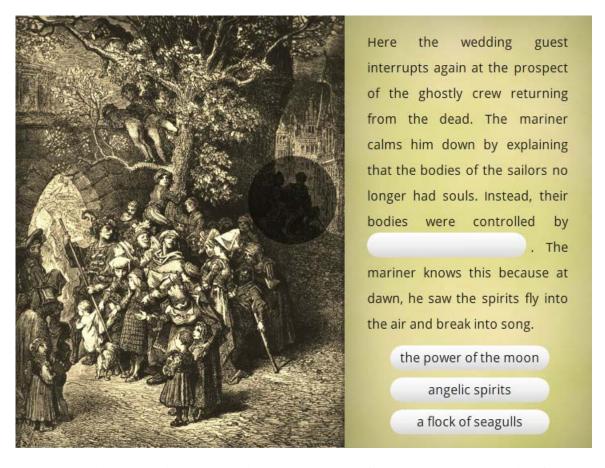




Eventually, the wind picked up but never reached the sails. At any rate, the mariner alone would never have been able to sail the ship by himself. Fortunately, he received help from _____. They rose up without speaking or moving their eyes, and the mariner joined them in steering the ship back home.

- a) the slimy water snakes
- b) the dead sailors
- c) the ghost ship

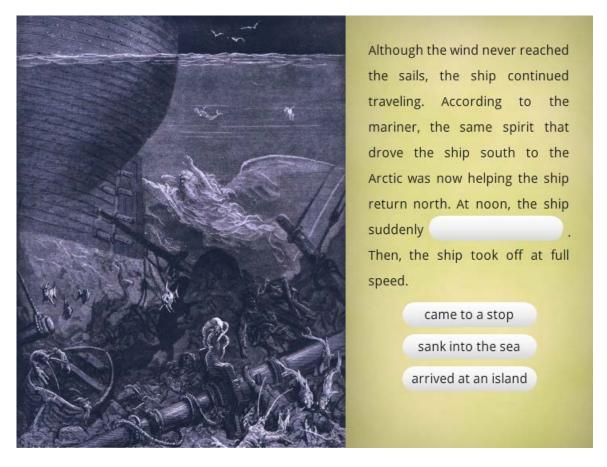




Here the wedding guest interrupts again at the prospect of the ghostly crew returning from the dead. The mariner calms him down by explaining that the bodies of the sailors no longer had souls. Instead, their bodies were controlled by _____. The mariner knows this because at dawn, he saw the spirits fly into the air and break into song.

- a) the power of the moon
- b) angelic spirits
- c) a flock of seagulls

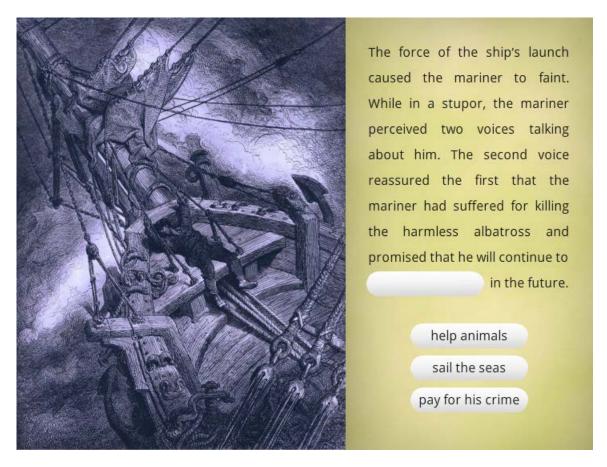




Although the wind never reached the sails, the ship continued traveling. According to the mariner, the same spirit that drove the ship south to the Arctic was now helping the ship return north. At noon, the ship suddenly _____. Then, the ship took off at full speed.

- a) came to a stop
- b) sank into the sea
- c) arrived at an island

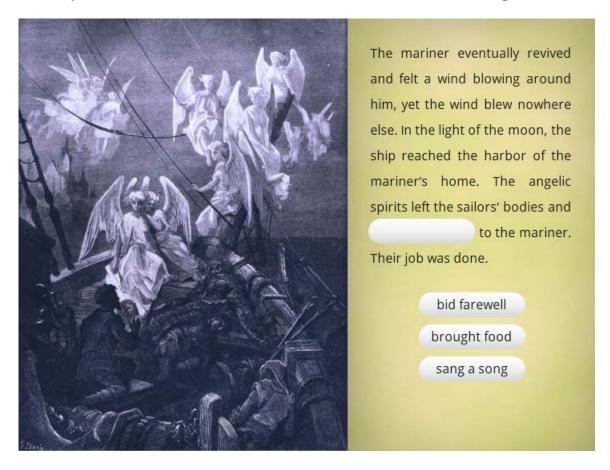




The force of the ship's launch caused the mariner to faint. While in a stupor, the mariner perceived two voices talking about him. The second voice reassured the first that the mariner had suffered for killing the harmless albatross and promised that he will continue to _____ in the future.

- a) help animals
- b) sail the seas
- c) pay for his crime

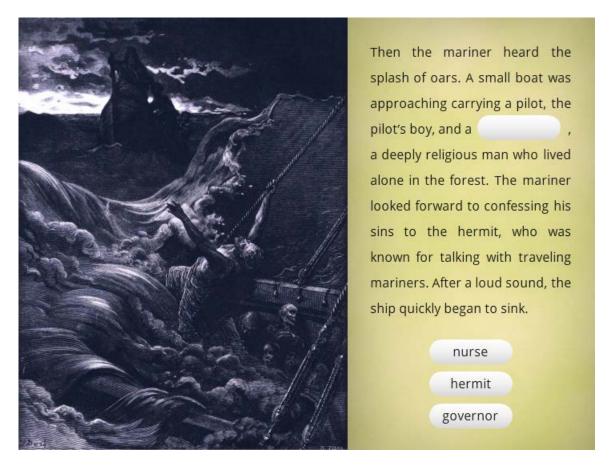




The mariner eventually revived and felt a wind blowing around him, yet the wind blew nowhere else. In the light of the moon, the ship reached the harbor of the mariner's home. The angelic spirits left the sailors' bodies and _____ to the mariner. Their job was done.

- a) bid farewell
- b) brought food
- c) sang a song

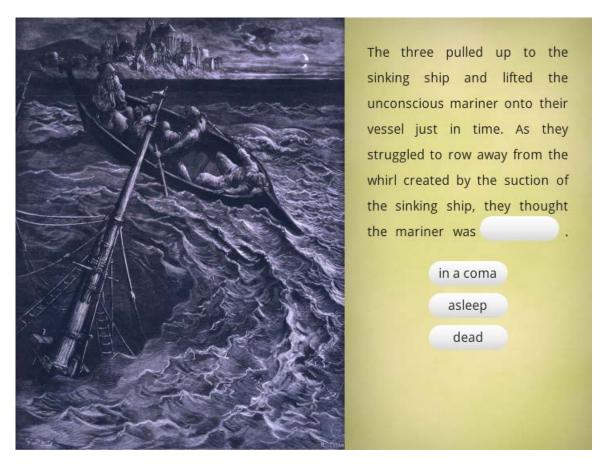




Then the mariner heard the splash of oars. A small boat was approaching carrying a pilot, the pilot's boy, and a _____, a deeply religious man who lived alone in the forest. The mariner looked forward to confessing his sins to the hermit, who was known for talking with traveling mariners. After a loud sound, the ship quickly began to sink.

- a) nurse
- b) hermit
- c) governor

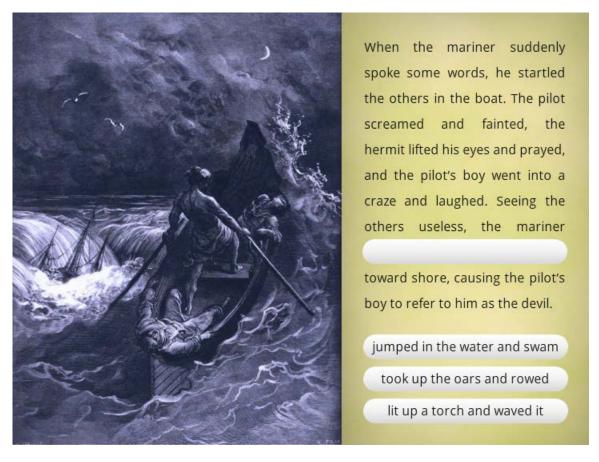




The three pulled up to the sinking ship and lifted the unconscious mariner onto their vessel just in time. As they struggled to row away from the whirl created by the suction of the sinking ship, they thought the mariner was _____.

- a) in a coma
- b) asleep
- c) dead

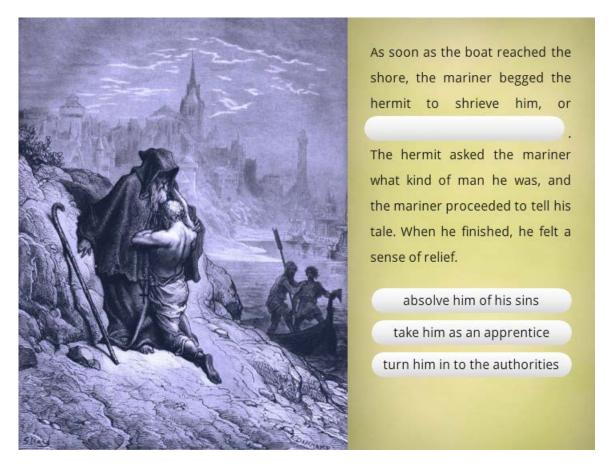




When the mariner suddenly spoke some words, he startled the others in the boat. The pilot screamed and fainted, the hermit lifted his eyes and prayed, and the pilot's boy went into a craze and laughed. Seeing the others useless, the mariner _____ toward shore, causing the pilot's boy to refer to him as the devil.

- a) jumped in the water and swam
- b) took up the oars and rowed
- c) lit up a torch and waved it

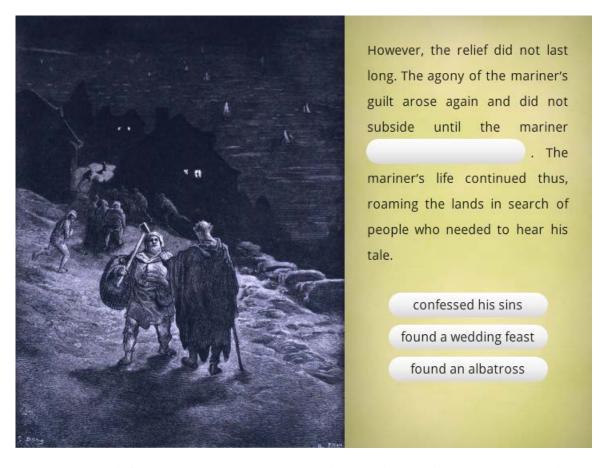




As soon as the boat reached the shore, the mariner begged the hermit to shrieve him, or _____. The hermit asked the mariner what kind of man he was, and the mariner proceeded to tell his tale. When he finished, he felt a sense of relief.

- a) absolve him of his sins
- b) take him as an apprentice
- c) turn him in to the authorities

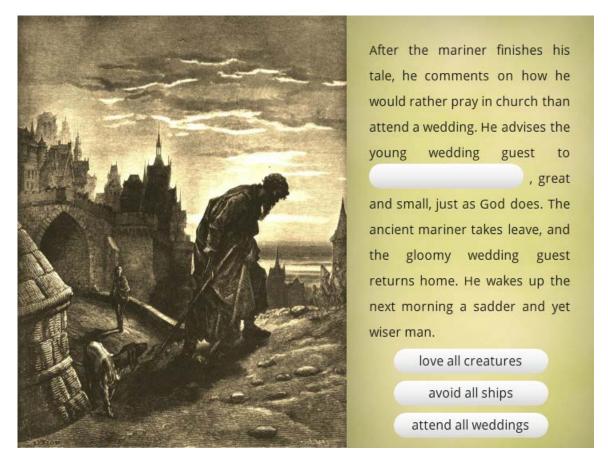




However, the relief did not last long. The agony of the mariner's guilt arose again and did not subside until the mariner _____. The mariner's life continued thus, roaming the lands in search of people who needed to hear his tale.

- a) confessed his sins
- b) found a wedding feast
- c) found an albatross





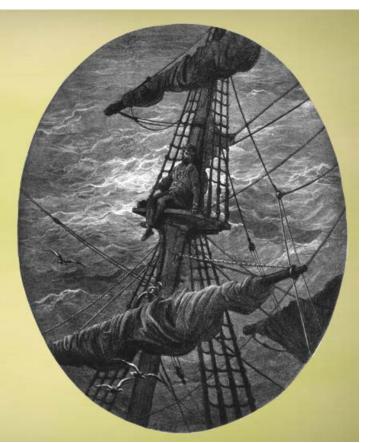
After the mariner finishes his tale, he comments on how he would rather pray in church than attend a wedding. He advises the young wedding guest to _____, great and small, just as God does. The ancient mariner takes leave, and the gloomy wedding guest returns home. He wakes up the next morning a sadder and yet wiser man.

- a) love all creatures
- b) avoid all ships
- c) attend all weddings



Now that you have reviewed "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner," take a moment to reflect on the poem.

- Do you think the mariner's punishment fit the crime?
- Which character did you find the most interesting?
- The poem never explains why the mariner killed the albatross. Why do you think he did it?
- What do you think is the most important message of the story?



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