The Grammardog Guide to
The Rime of the
Ancient Mariner
by Samuel Taylor Coleridge

All quizzes use sentences from the poem.
Includes over 250 multiple choice questions.
About Grammardog

Grammardog was founded in 2001 by Mary Jane McKinney, a high school English teacher and dedicated grammarian. She and other experienced English teachers in both high school and college regard grammar and style as the key to unlocking the essence of an author.

Their philosophy, that grammar and literature are best understood when learned together, led to the formation of Grammardog.com, a means of sharing knowledge about the structure and patterns of language unique to specific authors. These patterns are what make a great book a great book. The arduous task of analyzing works for grammar and style has yielded a unique product, guaranteed to enlighten the reader of literary classics.

Grammardog’s strategy is to put the author’s words under the microscope. The result yields an increased appreciation of the art of writing and awareness of the importance and power of language.

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EXERCISE 5  COMPLEMENTS

Identify the complements in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:
d.o. = direct object   p.n. = predicate nominative
o.p. = object of preposition  p.a. = predicate adjective

___1. And there came both mist and snow, and it grew wondrous cold.
___2. It ate the food it ne’er had eat, and round and round it flew.
___3. We were the first that ever burst into that silent sea.

EXERCISE 6  PHRASES

Identify the phrases in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:
par = participial   ger = gerund   inf = infinitive   appos = appositive   prep = prepositional

___1. ‘By thy long grey beard and glittering eye, now wherefore stopp’st thou me?’
___2. And thus spake on that ancient man, the bright-eyed Mariner.
___3. Ah wretch! said they, the bird to slay, that made the breeze to blow.

EXERCISE 9  STYLE: FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Identify the figurative language in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:
p = personification   s = simile   m = metaphor   o = onomatopoeia

___1. The sun came up upon the left, out of the sea came he!
___2. The bride hath paced into the hall, red as a rose is she.
___3. Day after day, day after day, we stuck, nor breath nor motion; as idle as a painted ship upon a painted ocean.

EXERCISE 12  STYLE: ALLUSIONS AND SYMBOLS

Identify the type of allusion in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:
a. music   b. religion   c. birds   d. folklore/superstition

___1. The Wedding-Guest here beat his breast, for he heard the loud bassoon.
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2. At length did cross an Albatross, thorough the fog it came; as if it had been a Christian soul, we hailed it in God’s name.

3. ‘Why look’st thou so?’ – ‘With my crossbow I shot the Albatross.’

EXERCISE 13   STYLE: LITERARY ANALYSIS – SELECTED PASSAGE 1

Read the following passage the first time through for meaning.

The fair breeze blew, the white foam flew,
The furrow followed free;  
We were the first that ever burst  
Into that silent sea.

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!

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

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

Water, water, everywhere,  
And all the boards did shrink;  
Water, water, everywhere,  
Nor any drop to drink.  
(From Part II)

Read the passage a second time, marking figurative language, sensory imagery, poetic devices, and any other patterns of diction and rhetoric, then answer the questions below.

1. The fair breeze blew, the white foam flew,

2. The furrow followed free;

3. We were the first that ever burst

4. Into that silent sea.

5. Down dropt the breeze, the sails dropt down,

6. ‘Twas sad as sad could be;
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7  And we did speak only to break
8  The silence of the sea!
9  All in a hot and copper sky,
10 The bloody Sun, at noon,
11 Right up above the mast did stand,
12 No bigger than the Moon.
13 Day after day, day after day,
14 We stuck, nor breath nor motion;
15 As idle as a painted ship
16 Upon a painted ocean.
17 Water, water, everywhere,
18 And all the boards did shrink;
19 Water, water, everywhere,
20 Nor any drop to drink.

____1. The underlined words in Lines 1 and 2 are examples of . . .  
a. assonance  b. consonance  c. alliteration  d. rhyme

____2. The underlined words in Line 7 are an example of . . . 
a. assonance  b. consonance  c. alliteration  d. rhyme

____3. Lines 15 and 16 contain an example of . . .  
a. simile  b. metaphor  c. personification  d. hyperbole

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