



The Rime of the Ancient Mariner

Samuel Taylor Coleridge,
1834

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!

ACTIVITIES

1. With your partner, read this stanza aloud to each other and underline all the words that you feel communicate a particular feeling using sound. Name the feeling.
2. With your partner, annotate the stanza, identifying any examples of the three sound devices, rhyme, alliteration and iambic pentameter that you can find.
3. Using the stanza above, or one you have selected for yourself, write a paragraph explaining the effect the sound devices have on you as a reader.

Language Devices:

Alliteration: repeated starting sounds

Rhyme: repeated ending sounds

Iambic Pentameter: a rhythm made of an 'unstressed' followed by a 'stressed'

POINT: Name the effect you believe the device has

EXAMPLE: Quote the best example you can find of this effect in action in the poem

EXPLANATION: Explain in detail how this sound effect works to add meaning to the poem.