*Her* lips were red, *her* looks were free,

Her locks were yellow as gold:

Her skin was as white as leprosy,

The Night-mare LIFE-IN-DEATH was she,

Who thicks man's blood with cold.

The naked hulk alongside came,

And the twain were casting dice;

'The game is done! I've won! I've won!'

Quoth she, and whistles thrice.

The Sun's rim dips; the stars rush out;

At one stride comes the dark;

With far-heard whisper, o'er the sea,

Off shot the spectre-bark.

We listened and looked sideways up!

Fear at my heart, as at a cup,

My life-blood seemed to sip!

The stars were dim, and thick the night,

The steersman's face by his lamp gleamed white;

From the sails the dew did drip—

Till clomb above the eastern bar

The hornèd Moon, with one bright star

Within the nether tip.

One after one, by the star-dogged Moon,

Too quick for groan or sigh,

Each turned his face with a ghastly pang,

And cursed me with his eye.

Four times fifty living men,

(And I heard nor sigh nor groan)

With heavy thump, a lifeless lump,

They dropped down one by one.

The souls did from their bodies fly,—

They fled to bliss or woe!

And every soul, it passed me by,

Like the whizz of my cross-bow!

**Summary part 4**

The Wedding Guest is disturbed by the [Mariner](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Rime-of-the-Ancient-Mariner/character-analysis/#Mariner)'s tale, but the Mariner continues. He is alone on the sea with the dead bodies of his crew and the monsters in the water. He tries to pray, but finds himself unable to do so. The bodies do not rot, and they all stare at the Mariner with a curse in their eyes.

For seven days and nights the Mariner is aboard the ship with his dead crew, who are unable to die. As he watches the sea serpents in the ocean, the Mariner admires their beauty and blesses them silently. At this moment the [Albatross](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Rime-of-the-Ancient-Mariner/symbols/#Albatross) falls from his neck and sinks into the water.

**Summary 5**

The [Mariner](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Rime-of-the-Ancient-Mariner/character-analysis/#Mariner) falls asleep and wakes to find it raining. A storm blows up around him, and the ship moves on despite the wind not reaching it. The dead crew rise up and began to take their posts and sail the ship.

When the [Wedding Guest](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Rime-of-the-Ancient-Mariner/character-analysis/#Wedding_Guest) expresses his fear of the tale, the Mariner assures him that these were good spirits inhabiting the bodies of his crew. The Mariner believes it was the spirit of the [Albatross](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Rime-of-the-Ancient-Mariner/symbols/#Albatross) that caused the ship to move without wind or waves.

The ship stops, then makes a sudden lurch that causes the Mariner to faint. He hears two voices discussing his fate. The first voice says that the spirit that lived in the Arctic lands over the [Albatross](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Rime-of-the-Ancient-Mariner/character-analysis/#Albatross) that the Mariner killed. The second voice says the Mariner must serve his penance for his actions.

**Summary 6**

The voices are still speaking about the ship and how it moves with wind or water. The [Mariner](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Rime-of-the-Ancient-Mariner/character-analysis/#Mariner) wakes to find it is nighttime and the crew is gathered on the deck, staring at him. The ship sails on until it reaches a lighthouse in a harbor.

When the Mariner turns around, he sees the crew once more as dead bodies. This time he sees seraphs collecting the spirits of the crew. The Mariner hears the approaching Pilot and his son, and he also hears a Hermit singing and thinks that the Hermit will be able to help him expiate his sin of killing the [Albatross](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Rime-of-the-Ancient-Mariner/symbols/#Albatross).

**Summary 7**

The ship sinks and the [Mariner](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Rime-of-the-Ancient-Mariner/character-analysis/#Mariner) is hauled into the Pilot's boat. The Pilot thinks him dead, so he is surprised when the Mariner takes up the oars to row. When the Mariner reaches the shore of his own country, he asks the Hermit for absolution.

The Mariner tells the Hermit his tale—he feels a compulsion to do so, and he is relieved when he is finished. The Mariner tells the [Wedding Guest](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Rime-of-the-Ancient-Mariner/character-analysis/#Wedding_Guest) that it has been this way since that night: he feels horribly compelled to tell his tale and must do so or suffer great pain. The Mariner travels from place to place to find the next person he must tell his tale to.

Part 7

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 hoar,

Is gone: and now the Wedding-Guest

Turned from the bridegroom's door.

He went like one that hath been stunned,

And is of sense forlorn:

A sadder and a wiser man,

He rose the morrow morn.