

Standard 12 Summer Reading

The Seafarer

“The Seafarer” was found in the Exeter Book, a collection of 122 Anglo-Saxon lyrical poems and 95 riddles, all copied into the one manuscript by a single scribe around A.D. 975. “The Seafarer” is a lyrical poem. A lyrical poem is different from an epic poem in that it is usually shorter and highly personal, expressing a basic emotion or state of mind. An epic poem (“Beowulf”) tells a story while using many of the basic emotions of the lyrical poem.

Read “The Seafarer”. A link is provided below.

http://www.nexuslearning.net/books/Elements_of_Lit_Course6/Anglo_Saxon_Period/The%20Seafarer.htm

In a well-developed five paragraph essay address the following question. You may type the essay that is due the first day of class. The 9-point rubric is included here.

Anglo-Saxons believed that fate or weird controls all human destiny. The theme of Anglo-Saxon lyric and epic poetry is the hardship of survival and the need to have courage to survive. These two traits give power to the poet’s images of what was a very dangerous and difficult life.

How does this statement apply to “The Seafarer”? What adversity does the speaker face? What does the adversity demand of the speaker to survive? How does he face the issue and his destiny?