

Columbus by Joaquin Miller

Study Notes

Define:

Mutinous: _____
Wan: _____
Swarthy: _____
Blanched: _____

Interpret:

Explain the third stanza in your own words.

Examine:

Look at the individual elements of the poem. Give examples of the following:

Personification – when the writer gives human like qualities to a non-human

Consonance – the repetition of consonant sounds in neighboring words

Refrain – the repetition of a line or phrase, especially at the end of each stanza

Internal Rhyme – when rhyming words appear in the same line of poetry

Simile – a comparison using the words “like” or “as”

Evaluate:

Who was the “Brave Admiral”? Do you think he was truly brave? Why or why not?

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Study Notes Answer Key

Define:

Mutinous: defiant; rebellious; disobedient

Wan: pale; ashen

Swarthy: having a dark complexion or color.

Blanched: sun-bleached; washed out

Interpret:

Explain the third stanza in your own words.

Answers will vary. Should include that the mate thought that they were so lost at sea that he thought God may not even be able to find them.

Examine:

Look at the individual elements of the poem. Give examples of the following:

Personification – when the writer gives human like qualities to a non-human

In the fourth stanza the sea is personified – shows his teeth and curls his lip

Consonance – the repetition of consonant sounds in neighboring words

There are many examples throughout the poem, especially in the second stanza:

My men grow mutinous day by day;

My men grow ghastly wan and weak,"

The stout mate thought of home; a spray

Of salt wave washed his swarthy cheek.

Refrain – the repetition of a line or phrase, especially at the end of each stanza

"Sail on! sail on! sail on! and on!"

Internal Rhyme – when rhyming words appear in the same line of poetry

Second stanza - "Why, you shall say, at break of day"

Third Stanza – "Should I and all my men fall dead"

Third Stanza - "For God from these dread seas is gone."

Simile – a comparison using the words "like" or "as"

In the forth stanza, "The words leapt as a leaping sword"

Evaluate:

Who was the "Brave Admiral"? Do you think he was truly brave? Why or why not?

Answers will vary