

THE RIME OF THE ANCIENT MARINER

COPY MASTER

Literary Analysis

LITERARY BALLAD

A **literary ballad** is a narrative poem that follows the pattern of a traditional folk ballad. It contains elements such as dialogue, repetition of words and phrases, and strong patterns of rhyme and rhythm. Often, the subject matter of a ballad is sensational or dramatic.

Directions: Study the characteristics of a folk ballad in the first column of the chart. Determine to what extent “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner” conforms to, or varies from, typical folk-ballad style. Then record your findings in the chart.

Folk Ballad	“The Rime of the Ancient Mariner”
Brief narrative poem (story poem) set to music	
Opens abruptly	
Recounts a single dramatic, often tragic, episode	
Includes supernatural events	
Has dialogue, often without directly stating who is speaking	
Some lines and stanzas repeat (with slight variations)	
Has four-line stanzas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • first and third lines have four stressed syllables • second and fourth lines have three stressed syllables • second and fourth lines rhyme 	