

Name: _____

The Enigma of the Wandering Albatross

Upon the restless waters of the North Atlantic sailed the ship "Serpentine," commanded by Captain Nathaniel and crewed by a diverse ensemble of seamen. Among them was young Oliver, an apprentice eager for adventure but naive to the ocean's unfathomable mysteries.

A stern and disciplined man, Captain Nathaniel led with an iron fist. His gaze was perpetually set upon the horizon, as if seeking something beyond the reach of mere mortals. Contrasting the captain, Oliver was imbued with a ceaseless thirst for learning. He voraciously read any scrap of paper, parchment, or book that found its way onto the ship.

One evening, an albatross, rare in those waters, appeared alongside the ship. To the crew, it was a harbinger of fortune or doom, its meaning indecipherable. Yet the bird seemed to cast a peculiar spell on Captain Nathaniel, who ordered the crew to let it be.

As if beckoned by the albatross, a fearsome storm enveloped the ship. The crew labored valiantly to prevent catastrophe, led by Captain Nathaniel's unwavering hand. When the skies cleared, the albatross was gone, and in its place, a calm settled over the ship and its men.

Days later, Captain Nathaniel confided in Oliver, revealing an ancient maritime legend. The albatross, he believed, was a messenger from the sea gods, a symbol that could signify either peril or providence.

As the Serpentine docked upon familiar shores, Oliver realized the voyage had imparted more than seafaring skills; it had also unveiled life's inherent enigmas that could neither be easily solved nor ignored.

Directions: Write the main idea in your own words.

Write three supporting details for the main idea below.

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The Enigma of the Wandering Albatross **Answer Key**

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The main idea of the passage is the exploration of life's mysteries and the pursuit of understanding,

as experienced by Oliver and Captain Nathaniel during their maritime voyage.

Write three supporting details for the main idea below. **Answers may vary.**

1. Captain Nathaniel is a stern leader always seeking something on the horizon, symbolizing the eternal quest for meaning or understanding.
2. Oliver is portrayed as a young man with an insatiable thirst for knowledge, eager to understand the world and its complexities.
3. The appearance and disappearance of the albatross serve as metaphors for life's unpredictable mysteries, affecting both the Captain and Oliver in profound ways.