I can make a true song          about me myself, tell my travels,          how I often endureddays of struggle, troublesome times

1. Caesura is a break in a line to give more emphasis on the second half. What is the emphasis in this example?

How I have suffered grim sorrow          at heart, have known in the ship          many worries [abodes of care], 5the terrible tossing of the waves          where the anxious night watchoften took me         at the ship's prow,when it tossed near the cliffs. Fettered by coldwere my feet,          bound by frost in cold clasps,          where then cares seethed 10 hot about my heart–          a hunger tears from withinthe sea-weary soul. This the man does not knowfor whom on land          it turns out most favorably, how I, wretched and sorrowful,          on the ice-cold seadwelt for a winter          in the paths of exile, 15bereft of friendly kinsmen,          hung about with icicles;hail flew in showers. There I heard nothing    but the roaring sea,          the ice-cold wave. At times the swan's song          I took to myself as pleasure, the gannet's noise          and the voice of the curlew 20instead of the laughter of men,          the singing gull instead of the drinking of mead. Storms there beat the stony cliffs,Where the tern spoke,          icy-feathered;always the eagle cried at it,          dewy-feathered;no cheerful kinsmen          can comfort *25*the poor soul. Indeed he credits it little         the one who has the joys of life,          dwells in the city, far from terrible journey,          proud and wanton with wine, how I, weary, often          have had to endure in the sea-paths. 30

5.What tone do the two underlined words (line 15-16)express?

6. Based on contextual clues,the underlined words (line 19-21)are different kinds of? Explain the sentence.

4. What is the time of year/weather? What tone do the words fettered and bound (line 8-9) make you feel?

3. What are the underlined words in line 6 an example of?

2. What is the profession of the narrator?

The shadows of night darkened,          it snowed from the north,frost bound the ground,          hail fell on the earth,coldest of grains. Indeed, now they are troubledthe thoughts of my heart,          that I myself should strive with the high streams,          the tossing of salt waves— 35the wish of my heart urges          all the timemy spirit to go forth,           that I, far from here,should seek the homeland          of a foreign people—

8. Looking at the underlined passage (line 26-30), what do you think the narrator is talking about?

7. Who does the narrator compare himself to (line 22-26)? Explain the comparison?

Indeed there is not so proud-spirited          a man in the world, nor so generous of gifts,          nor so bold in his youth, 40nor so brave in his deeds          nor so dear to his lord,that he never in his seafaring          has a worry,as to what his Lord          will do to him.

Not for him is the sound of the harp          nor the giving of rings nor pleasure in woman          nor worldly glory— 45nor anything at all           unless the tossing of the waves;but he always has a longing          he who strives on the waves.

Groves take on blossoms,          the cities grow fair,the fields are comely,          the world seems new: all these things urge on          the eager of spirit, 50the mind to travel,          in one who so thinksto travel far          on the paths of the sea.

9. The highlighted passage is an omen to the Seafarer for what? How does he feel about this?

So the cuckoo warns          with a sad voice;the guardian of summer sings,          bodes a sorrow grievous in the soul.          This the man does not know, 55the warrior lucky in worldly things          what some endure then, those who tread most widely           the paths of exile.

10. The underlined passage is an example of? What is it naming?

And now my spirit twists          out of my breast,my spirit          out in the waterways, over the whale's path           it soars widely 60through all the corners of the world–          it comes back to meeager and unsated;The lone-flier screams,         urges onto the whale-road          the unresisting heart across the waves of the sea.          Indeed hotter for me are the joys of the Lord than          this dead life 65fleeting on the land. I do not believe that the riches of the world          will stand forever. Always and invariably,          one of three things will turn to uncertainty          before his fated hour: disease, or old age,          or the sword's hatred 70will tear out the life          for those doomed to die.

12. What is the narrator talking about here in this lengthy passage 64-80 from line?

11.”lone-flier” and “whale-road” are examples of? What are they talking about?

And so it is for each man          the praise of the living,of those who speak afterwards,          that is the best epitaph,that he should work          before he must be gonebravery in the world against the enmity of devils, 75  
daring deeds          against the fiend,so that the sons of men          will praise him afterwardsand his fame afterwards          will live with the angelsfor ever and ever,          the glory of eternal life,joy with the Hosts. The days are gone 80 of all the glory           of the kingdoms of the earth; there are not now kings,          nor Caesars, nor givers of gold,          as once there were when they, the greatest, among themselves          performed valorous deeds and with a most lordly          majesty lived. 85

All that old guard is gone          and the revels are over—the weaker ones now dwell          and hold the world,enjoy it through their sweat.          The glory is fled,the nobility of the world          ages and grows sere,as now does every man          throughout the world. 90

Age comes upon him,           his face grows pale,the graybeard laments;          he knows that his old friends, the sons of princes,          have been given to the earth.

13. The underline passage is expressing what by the narrator? What does the highlighted word mean? What is the highlighted phrase talking about? (lines 88-93)

His body fails then,          as life leaves him—he cannot taste sweetness          nor feel pain, 95nor move his hand          nor think with his head.

Though he would strew          the grave with gold,a brother for his kinsman,          bury with the deada mass of treasure,          it just won't work—nor can the soul          which is full of sin 100preserve the gold          before the fear of God,though he hid it before          while he was yet alive.

Great is the fear of the Lord,           before which the world stands still;He established           the firm foundations,the corners of the world and the high heavens. 105

A fool is the one who does not fear his Lord          – death comes to him unprepared.Blessed is he who lives humbly          – to him comes forgiveness from heaven.God set that spirit within him,          because he believed in His might.

14. The narrator is explaining his beliefs in God and the afterlife. What must one do to enter into the afterlife provided by God?

Man must control his passions          and keep everything in balance,keep faith with men          and be pure in wisdom. 110Each of men must          be even-handedWith their friends and their foes.

though he does not wish him          in the foulness of flamesor on a pyre           to be burnedhis contrived friend,          Fate is greater 115and God is mightier           than any man's thought.

Let us ponder          where we have our homesand then think          how we should get thither –and then we should all strive           that we might go thereto the eternal blessedness          that is a belonging life 120in the love of the Lord          joy in the heavens.

Let there be thanks to God          that he adored us,the Father of Glory,          the Eternal Lord,for all time.          Amen.

15. What is the overall theme of this poem?