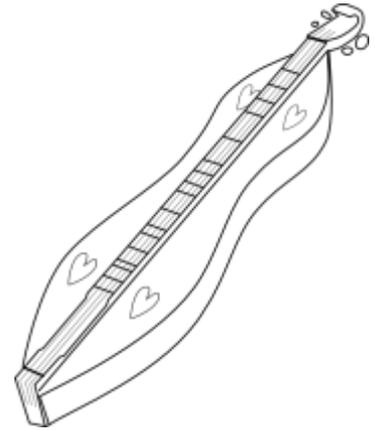


Name: _____ Class: _____

Samuel Taylor Coleridge p. 704-709
"Kubla Khan"

About the Author

1. Describe Coleridge as a student.
2. With who did he collaborate and what did they write?
3. To what did Coleridge become addicted and why?
4. What is unique about "Kubla Khan"?
5. What idea did Coleridge introduce?
6. How did he differentiate between fancy and imagination?



"Kubla Khan"

1. "Decree" means "to order." What does Kubla Khan order to be built?
2. Where is it to be built?
3. What three natural features are there in lines 3-5?
4. "Fertile" means "rich soil, good for growing." How many miles of land were fertile? (line 6).
5. What had been built around this land? (line 7).
6. What grew in the gardens? (line 9).
7. Describe in your own words the place that is "savage" in lines 12-14.
8. Describe the movement or course of the river in lines 19-24.
9. What does the river run through in line 26?
10. What happens to the river in line 28?
11. Describe in your own words the "pleasure-dome." (line 36).
12. What does Coleridge see in his vision in lines 37-40?
13. The last ten lines (44-54) are possibly a description of what it feels like to be inspired to write a poem.
 - a) Do you like this description and why / why not?
 - b) Write out three phrases which suggest inspiration is a supernatural thing.

Name: _____ Class: _____

More Questions on "Kubla Khan" by Samuel Taylor Coleridge

1. What is the mood of the poem? How does it make you feel?
2. Notice that the "Kubla Khan" is dreamlike in that it has many images, not necessarily united to a central thought. We do not know, for example, where each of the described objects is located in relation to the other. They seem to be floating. What other qualities does the poem share with the world of dreams? How does it differ from reality?
3. Why do dreams appeal to the Romantic poets?
4. What ideas about creativity and re-creation does the poet bring out in the second part of the poem?
5. Many people feel a sinister foreboding about "Kubla Khan." Find ten words or phrases which might give a reader that impression.
6. With what do you associate the flashing eyes and floating hair? Are they normal?
7. Chances are, Coleridge's story of a laudanum-induced dream is untrue or exaggerated. If it is untrue, why might he have propagated such a tale? How does the story of his dream and quick writing of the poem shape your understanding of "Kubla Khan"?
8. What elements make dreams in general frightening or unreal?