CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

Lyrical Ballads, with a Few Other Poems (1798)

William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge · *1798 · English original, London: J. & A. Arch, 1798, Project Gutenberg #9622*

It is the honourable characteristic of Poetry that its materials are to be found in every subject which can interest the human mind. So the 1798 advertisement begins. The majority of the following poems are to be considered as experiments. Project Gutenberg #9622, the first volume, complete as hosted: a mixed collection of lyrics and narrative ballads. The Rime of the Ancyent Marinere already has its own map. Name the mix. For grades 9–12. Quote this wording, and the poems, not only the advertisement.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

How should a school read this file as the 1798 Lyrical Ballads, a mixed volume of experiments in the language of conversation, rather than as a single story, or as only The Rime of the Ancient Mariner?

"It is the honourable characteristic of Poetry that its materials are to be found in every subject which can interest the human mind. The evidence of"

Advertisement

Lyrical Ballads, with a Few Other Poems, London, 1798, Project Gutenberg #9622, complete as hosted. The advertisement begins: It is the honourable characteristic of Poetry that its materials are to be found in every subject which can interest the human mind. The majority of the following poems are to be considered as experiments. A mixed collection. The Rime of the Ancyent Marinere, as this volume spells it, already has its own map. For grades 9–12. Name the mix. Quote this wording, and the poems, not only the advertisement.

KEY CHARACTERS

Wordsworth and Coleridge
The authors of this 1798 volume, which was first published anonymously

The Ancient Mariner
Present in this volume as The Rime of the Ancyent Marinere, and already mapped as his own work

HOW TO BEGIN LYRICAL BALLADS

> *"It is the honourable characteristic of Poetry that its materials are to be found in every subject which can interest the human mind. The evidence of"*
>
> Advertisement

> *"The majority of the following poems are to be considered as experiments. They were written"*
>
> Advertisement

Grades 9–12
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

The Honourable Characteristic of Poetry

ADVERTISEMENT

It is the honourable characteristic of Poetry that its materials are to be found in every subject which can interest the human mind. The volume begins with a claim about materials, not with a tale.

- Keep "honourable characteristic" and this spelling.
- 9–12.
- An advertisement, then the poems.
- Quote this wording.

> *"It is the honourable characteristic of Poetry that its materials are to be found in every subject which can interest the human mind. The evidence of"*
>
> Advertisement

02

To Be Considered as Experiments

ADVERTISEMENT

The majority of the following poems are to be considered as experiments. The authors name a trial, not a finished school of verse only.

- Keep "to be considered as experiments."
- 9–12.
- The majority, not every poem alike.
- Quote this wording.

> *"The majority of the following poems are to be considered as experiments. They were written"*
>
> Advertisement

03

The Language of Conversation

ADVERTISEMENT

They were written chiefly with a view to ascertain how far the language of conversation in the middle and lower classes of society is adapted to the purposes of poetic pleasure. The experiment has a stated aim.

- Keep "language of conversation" and "poetic pleasure."
- 9–12.
- An aim, not yet a tale.
- Quote this wording.

> *"They were written chiefly with a view to ascertain how far the language of conversation in the middle and lower classes of society is adapted to the purposes of poetic pleasure. Readers accustomed to"*
>
> Advertisement

04

The Ancyent Marinere, Already Mapped

THE TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Rime of the Ancyent Marinere stands in this volume, under this spelling, and already has its own story map. Name the collection you are in, and do not teach that one poem as if it were the whole book.

- Keep "Ancyent Marinere," as this file prints it.
- 9–12.
- A mixed volume; some poems also have their own maps.
- Quote the title as hosted.

> *"The Rime of the Ancyent Marinere The"*
>
> The table of contents

05

1798, a Mixed Collection, Complete as Hosted

THE EDITION

Lyrical Ballads, with a Few Other Poems, London, J. & A. Arch, 1798, Project Gutenberg #9622, complete as hosted. A mixed collection of lyrics and narrative ballads. The Ancient Mariner already has its own map; so do, or will, a few other extracted poems. Name the mix. For grades 9–12. Quote this wording, and the poems, not only the advertisement. One map cannot teach every poem.

- Name 1798, PG #9622, and the mix.
- 9–12.
- An advertisement about experiments, then the poems.
- Quote this English.

> *"It is the honourable characteristic of Poetry that its materials are to be found in every subject which can interest the human mind. The evidence of"*
>
> Advertisement

An honourable characteristic, claimed

Poems considered as experiments

The language of conversation

A mariner already mapped elsewhere

A mixed volume, honestly named

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 9–12

1. The advertisement begins: "It is the honourable characteristic of Poetry that its materials are to be found in every subject which can interest the human mind."
2. "The majority of the following poems are to be considered as experiments."
3. This is the 1798 London volume, Project Gutenberg #9622, complete as hosted: a mixed collection of lyrics and narrative ballads. The Rime of the Ancyent Marinere already has its own map. Name the mix.
4. For grades 9–12. Quote this wording, and the poems, not only the advertisement. One map cannot teach every poem.

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