1. What is heroic about the seafarer?
2. In what significant ways does the seafarer compare to Beowulf? In what significant ways does he differ from him?
3. The seafarer sees himself as an outsider, a man for whom the “paths of exile stretch endlessly on.” How does the condition of being set apart from all others contribute to his “song”? How does it make his song more emotional, more heroic, or more elegiac?
4. How does the poem show a serious look at life from the point of view of someone who has known great suffering and hardship rather than telling a story?
5. Dispute or support the following statement: “The Seafarer” contains both Christian and non-Christian elements. Use precise words and lines from the poem to support your opinion.

The “song of the swan” and the “eagles screams,” as well as the “smashing surf,” sound throughout the poem (alliteration as well as imagery). Compare nature imagery in “The Seafarer” and in BEOWULF. Create a chart showing how these images fall into these categories: weather, the sea, animals, and the land. How does each poet show awareness of the natural surroundings? Do these images serve as symbols?