

MOBY DICK

The extract is taken from the 41 Chapter, it recounts about Ishmael who is telling myths and legends surrounding Moby Dick. The Whale is described as... The colors white introduce the theme of the dual nature of the whale: he is considered innocent and evil at the same time as well as the character of Captain Ahab who is described as god-like and ungodly at the same time: on one hand he is a courageous sailor and a fearless traveller like Ulysses, on the other hand the desire of revenge and his ambitions are so overwhelming that he appears as a ~~well~~ mentally-ill person, as a monomaniac. From the descriptions of nature we understand the connections between the text and "The Rime on an Ancient Mariner" by Coleridge: we can find the same power of nature but also the importance of respecting god's creatures. The extract then describes the encounter of Moby Dick by Ahab. Melville uses detailed descriptions and concrete comparisons: "reaped away Ahab's leg, as a mower a blade of grass". Here the author points out the obsession of the captain through the terms: "frantic morbidity" and "spiritual exasperation". Moby Dick can now be interpreted as the monomaniac incarnation of Ahab's obsession.