Melville's "Moby-Dick": Shifts in Narrative Voice and Literary Genres

Worksheet 3. Ahab's dramatic monologue in chapter 37

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THE BEST OF THE HUMANITIES C	N THE WEB

Name:	Date:
Teacher:	Class:

Directions: As you read "Sunset," chapter 37 of *Moby-Dick*, answer the following questions. Be sure to use evidence from the text to support your answers.

1. Below, write four words or phrases that Ahab uses that you find memorable. For each word or phrase you've chosen, write a brief description of the type of language being used.

2. Look closely at the overall structure and effect of Ahab's language. Do you notice any interesting techniques, patterns, or rhythm in his prose? Describe those below.

3. Now that you have looked at specific elements of his speech, describe the language Ahab uses. What effect does this language have on your reading of his monologue?

4. What does Ahab say about the metaphorical crown that he describes?

5. What do you think this crown stands for?

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6. Describe Ahab's vision of himself.

7. Who does Ahab believe is in control of his destiny? How do you know this?

8. Write several adjectives that describe Ahab and textural quotes to support those descriptions.