

Invictus

Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the Pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeoning's of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but the Horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds, and shall find, me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll.

I am the master of my fate:
I am the captain of my soul.

William Ernest Henley

Invictus

1. Does the writer believe in God?
2. Which metaphor does he use to talk about his strength?
3. How does he describe his life?
4. Does he believe he can influence happenings in his life?
5. How has he reacted to difficulties in his life?
6. What adjectives would you use to describe his character?
7. What is his belief on destiny?
8. What is his creed?
9. How does the poem make you feel?
10. What is your creed in life?
11. What reactions would you expect from religious groups, in general, to this poem?
12. When do you think the poem was written?
13. Is it still relevant today?