Invictus

William Ernest Henley

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 bludgeonings 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.

**Key Words**

For each keyword: provided a definition, a synonym OR antonym, and use it in a sentence

Invictus, unconquerable, bludgeon, menace, strait

**Questions**

0. Annotate the Poem – Look for figurative language, rhyme scheme, and meaning

1. How many stanzas are in the poem?

2. Who do you think is the speaker is in this poem?

3. a) What is a metaphor?

b) Find a metaphor in this poem.

4. What is the title referring to? Why is the title important to understanding this poem?

5. What theme does this poem deal with? What does this poem show you about that theme?

ENRICHMENT / BONUS – Write a poem about your own identity. You can focus on a particular idea or moral you have like Henley does or concentrate on another aspect of yourself.