

**Worksheet 1. Call him Ishmael, and what else?**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructions:

Use the chart below to analyze key phrases and allusions from chapter 1 of *Moby-Dick* as Melville introduces his reader to Ishmael. First, record the literal meaning of these phrases. Next, interpret the impact these phrases have on your impression of Melville's characterization of Ishmael. Be sure to use the sentences around these phrases to help you understand their context.

Phrase or Allusion	Literal meaning	Impact on Characterization
"Whenever I find myself growing grim about the mouth ..."		
"With a philosophical flourish Cato* throws himself upon his sword; I quietly take to the ship." *(Cato was a Roman philosopher who killed himself rather than live under Caesar's rule)		
"... meditation and water are wedded for ever."		
"... and this is the key to it all."		
"For to go as a passenger you must needs have a purse."		

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

<p>“For my part, I abominate all honourable respectable toils, trials, and tribulations of every kind whatsoever.”</p>		
<p>“... in the scales of the New Testament?”</p>		
<p>“Who ain't a slave? Tell me that.”</p>		
<p>“... on no account can a monied man enter heaven ...”</p>		
<p>“... the commonality lead their leaders in many other things.”</p>		
<p>“... formed part of the grand programme of Providence that was drawn up a long time ago.”</p>		

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

“Such a portentous and mysterious monster roused all my curiosity...”		
“I am tormented with an everlasting itch for things remote.”		
“Not ignoring what is good ...”		

1. List some adjectives and nouns you would use to complete the sentence “Call him \_\_\_\_\_” based on your analysis of Ishmael in the chart above.

2. How could the descriptors of Ishmael listed above impact the way he tells a story?