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

**The Siren Song**

This is the one song everyone  
would like to learn: the song  
that is irresistible:  
  
the song that forces men  
to leap overboard in squadrons  
even though they see beached skulls  
  
the song nobody knows  
because anyone who had heard it  
is dead, and the others can’t remember.  
Shall I tell you the secret  
and if I do, will you get me  
out of this bird suit?  
I don’t enjoy it here  
squatting on this island  
looking picturesque and mythical  
with these two feathery maniacs,  
I don’t enjoy singing  
this trio, fatal and valuable.  
  
I will tell the secret to you,  
to you, only to you.  
Come closer. This song  
  
is a cry for help: Help me!  
Only you, only you can,  
you are unique  
  
at last. Alas  
it is a boring song  
but it works every time.

by Margaret Atwood

How effective is Atwood’s modern rendition of Homer’s Sirens? Explain.

What does the Siren reveal about the song?

What does she reveal about herself?

Who might the “others” be who have heard the song but “can’t remember”?

The Siren describes the song as “fatal and valuable.” In what sense is it valuable?

To whom might the Siren be speaking? Give reasons for your opinion.

How much of “Siren Song” is based on Homer, and how much is Atwood’s original creation?