**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?