

## Of Plymouth Plantation - Archaic Language

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.11-12.1.A

Apply the understanding that usage is a matter of convention, can change over time, and is sometimes contested.

Find the archaic language in each passage below.

1. "Being thus arrived in a good harbor, and brought safe to land, they fell upon their knees and blessed the God of Heaven who had brought them over the vast and furious ocean, and delivered them from all the perils and miseries thereof, again to set their feet on the firm and stable earth, their proper element..."

a. Which word or phrase means "having arrived?"

b. Which word or phrase means "stormy?"

c. Which word or phrase means "all its dangers?"

d. Which word or phrase means "the place where they belonged?"

2. "So as there died sometimes two or three of a day in the foresaid time, that of 100 and odd persons, scarce fifty remained."

a. Which word or phrase means "previously mentioned?"

b. Which word or phrase means "barely?"

c. Which word or phrase means "per day?"

d. Which word or phrase means "a little more than" a certain number?

3. "For summer being done, all things stand upon them with a weather-beaten face, and the whole country, full of woods and thickets, represented a wild and savage hue."

a. Which word or phrase means "color?"

b. Which word or phrase means "showed?"

Rewrite the following passages, but change the archaic diction and syntax into modern words and sentence structures.

"But here I cannot stay and make a pause..."

"Besides, what could they see but a hideous and desolate wilderness, full of wild beasts and wild men - and what multitudes there might be of them they knew not.

"From hence they departed and coasted all along but discerned no place likely for harbor..."

To what extent does the archaic language affect your response to *Of Plymouth Plantation*? Explain what you find difficult about the text, and what you find most interesting about the text.