“The Wanderer” Questions

1. In lines 1-7, the narrator is speaking. What terrible thing has happened to the wanderer?
2. According to the wanderer in lines 10-17, what makes a man manly?
3. What has happened to all of the wanderer’s warrior friends?
4. Knowing what we know about the Anglo-Saxons, why would exile from his lord’s mead hall be so painful?
5. According to line 21, what can you infer has happened to the wanderer’s lord?
6. What does specifically the wanderer seek now according to lines 22-25?
7. Explain the kenning in line 23.
8. Explain the mood of the wanderer in lines 26-34.
9. In addition to the pain of living day to day, when else does the wanderer suffer according to lines 35-38?
10. Where is the wanderer now according to lines 39-44?
11. What images haunt the wanderer according to lines 44-48?
12. According to the wanderer, what 10 things make a man wise? (lines 55-65)
13. What has happened to the glory of war and battles past as the wanderer lives on? (lines 66-72)
14. Find 2 examples of alliteration from lines 87-92.
15. According to the narrator, in the final stanza what is the key to happiness?

“The Wanderer” Questions

1. In lines 1-7, the narrator is speaking. What terrible thing has happened to the wanderer?
2. According to the wanderer in lines 10-17, what makes a man manly?
3. What has happened to all of the wanderer’s warrior friends?
4. Knowing what we know about the Anglo-Saxons, why would exile from his lord’s mead hall be so painful?
5. According to line 21, what can you infer has happened to the wanderer’s lord?
6. What does specifically the wanderer seek now according to lines 22-25?
7. Explain the kenning in line 23.
8. Explain the mood of the wanderer in lines 26-34.
9. In addition to the pain of living day to day, when else does the wanderer suffer according to lines 35-38?
10. Where is the wanderer now according to lines 39-44?
11. What images haunt the wanderer according to lines 44-48?
12. According to the wanderer, what 10 things make a man wise? (lines 55-65)
13. What has happened to the glory of war and battles past as the wanderer lives on? (lines 66-72)
14. Find 2 examples of alliteration from lines 87-92.
15. According to the narrator, in the final stanza what is the key to happiness?

**“The Wanderer” Answer Key:**

1. He has been separated from his lord and his warrior friends. (homeless, helpless, exile)
2. A man who keeps his thoughts to himself and doesn’t share what is in his heart is manly. (lock his lips, keeps his counsel, bury sorrow deep in his heart)
3. They have been killed. (no man living)
4. Exile from the mead hall would be like being exiled from his home.
5. He has died. (the dark earth covered my dear lord’s face)
6. He seeks a new lord. (who will be his new friend and let him live in his mead hall)
7. Gold-lord is a rich lord who can provide money
8. The mood is dark (he feels bereft and lonely)
9. He cannot sleep because he has bad dreams
10. He is on the ocean
11. The ghosts of his former warrior friends (kinsmen)
12. Patient, doesn’t anger quickly, doesn’t speak too quickly, isn’t weak, isn’t reckless, fearful, or eager in war, doesn’t wish for wealth, doesn’t make promises too quickly
13. The glory has faded
14. Wall wondrous, serpent shapes, storms of ash-spears
15. Seeking mercy from God