**Invictus**

By William Ernest Henley

Out of the night that covers me,  
Black as the Pit from pole to pole,  
I thank whatever gods may be  
For my unconquerable soul.  
  
In the fell clutch of circumstance  
I have not winced nor cried aloud.  
Under the bludgeonings of chance  
My head is bloody, but unbowed.  
  
Beyond this place of wrath and tears  
Looms but the Horror of the shade,  
And yet the menace of the years  
Finds, and shall find, me unafraid.  
  
It matters not how strait the gate,  
How charged with punishments the scroll.  
I am the master of my fate:  
I am the captain of my soul.

1. Look up the meaning of the word *invictus.* What language is it? What does it mean? Do you think it is a good/appropriate title for the poem?
2. In the first stanza, what is *night* a metaphor for?
3. What is the meaning of *chance* (line 7)?
4. What do you think the line “*Beyond . . . . looms but the Horror of the shade*” could be referring to?
5. The word *charged* (line 14) has several meanings. What does the author intend it to mean?
6. Do you believe that you are the master of your fate (line 15)? Or do your genes, your environment, and other factors place your fate outside of your control?