**Hardships of the First American Settlers**

**William Bradford, History of Plymouth Plantation (1650-51)**

**Analysis**

Analyzing the title the reader immediately understands the text is about the difficulties encountered by the First American Settlers. The subtitle explains the history of the author: William Bradford; he was one of the Pilgrim Fathers and wrote a journal about the history of the colony from 1630 to 1646. In his history of the Plymouth Colony, William Bradford writes quite dramatically of the voyage on the Mayflowerand and the settlers' first winter in the new land. The Pilgrims Fathers were extremely puritans and they wanted to separate from the Anglican Church and found a new colony in the New World.

The layout of the document suggest this is a part of a journal, it is composed by a single paragraph of 20 lines.

After the long and difficult travel across the ocean, the colonists arrived on the coasts of the American continent, but there was no one to help them, “no houses or towns to repair and nobody to refresh their weather beaten bodies”. The local population was made up of savages who made it even more difficult for their arrival in the new land. It was Winter and they had to face the “sharp and violent” season and its “cruel and fierce storms”; it was very dangerous to travel to know places, much more to search an unknown coasts. Also the Summer in this land looked like a savage place and if they looked behind them, there was the mighty ocean which they had passed and was now as a main bar and gulf to separate them from all the civil parts of the world. The only thing that sustained the Pilgrims in these first months was “the Spirit of God and His Grace”.

Analyzing the text linguistically the reader can notice the frequent repetition of negations like “no”, this highlights how difficult was the life in the New World for the Pilgrims Fathers and the negative vision of the writer.