

The Mystery of Edgar Allan Poe

Name _____



KNOWING POE

Name _____ Date _____

You are about to begin your search for information about an author of your choice for your Author Study Project. To practice, we are going to work together to discover some intriguing information about a popular author: Edgar Allan Poe. Follow the directions to complete your research on Edgar Allan Poe. Note the type of information you are discovering.

STOP #1 POE'S LIFE - A VIDEO

1. Watch the Video "The Mystery of Edgar Allan Poe"
2. Follow along with the worksheet as you watch.
3. Complete the blanks with the information you discover

STOP #2 POE'S DEATH

1. Go to <http://knowingpoe.thinkport.org>
2. Click on "Poe, the Person"
3. Click on the "It'll Be the Death of Me" in the drop down menu
4. Complete the "It'll Be the Death of Me" sheet

STOP #3 (extra credit)

Go to <http://knowingpoe.thinkport.org>

NOW TRAVEL AROUND THE SITE TO VIEW MORE INFORMATION ON POE AND TO COMPLETE "POE'S LEGACY" AND SEE ALL THAT HE LEFT BEHIND FOR US.

STOP #4 "THE BELLS"

1. Go to <http://knowingpoe.thinkport.org>
2. Read the poem in this packet or listen to the poem read to you
3. Answer the questions about each stanza

STOP #5 "THE TELL-TALE HEART"

1. Look at the words on "The Tell-Tale Heart" Prediction page
2. Predict what you believe the story may be about
3. Write your prediction on the back
4. Read the story as a class

STOP #6 "THE RAVEN"

1. Record the definitions for the "Elements of Poetry" as we go through them as a class
2. Read "The Raven" as we read it as a class.
3. Mark up the text using a variety of highlighters as we study the elements of poetry in the poem.
4. After your many readings of the poem, write a one sentence summary of each stanza

The Mystery of Edgar Allan Poe

Video

Name _____

1. Poe was a man both blessed and cursed by his _____.
2. Poe saw women as _____ figures.
3. Poe's mother was an _____.
4. Poe's mother was struck with _____ in Richmond, VA, while his father abandoned his family when Poe was _____ year(s) old.
5. The three Poe children were put in _____.
6. Edgar Allan Poe was taken in by the _____ family.
7. (True or False) Poe was never athletic.
8. When Poe was 15, he swam _____ miles against the James River in Richmond.
9. Poe's first love was his childhood friend's _____ who died of _____.
10. What happened to Mrs. Allan? _____
11. In 1827, John Allan sent Edgar off to _____.
12. (True or False) Poe was popular in college.
13. John Allan gave Poe only enough money to _____.
14. Destitute, Poe tried to make money _____ and was \$_____ in debt.
15. (True or False) John Allan did not help Poe get out of debt.
16. Poe fled to _____ and enlisted in the army under the name of _____.
17. Poe attended _____, a military academy.
18. At the age of twenty, Poe published two books of _____.
19. Frances Allan, Poe's foster mother, died of _____.
20. Poe had been orphaned by two _____ and rejected by two _____.
21. In 1831, Poe moved to _____ to the house of his aunt, Maria Clemm and her eight-year-old daughter, Virginia Clemm.
22. In 1834, Poe was summoned to the deathbed of _____.
23. (True or false) Poe was left with only one thing in John Allan's will.
24. Poe was appointed to be _____ of the *Southern Literary Messenger*.
25. Poe was known as the _____ man because of his brutal reviews.

26. What happened to Poe when he found out that Virginia was going to move?

27. Poe was in love with _____ and was very upset.
28. Poe married his cousin, Virginia Clemm. She was only _____ years old, and he was _____ years old.
29. (True or False) Poe's life was a constant struggle to make ends meet.
30. In 1842, he secured a meeting with U.S. President _____ to request a government job, but he appeared _____ when he showed up.
31. Poe used the meeting to solicit _____.
32. The themes of his stories are firmly rooted in the grim realities of his _____.
33. (True or False) Poe's life was free from catastrophes.
34. (True or False) Poe struggled most of his life with death and making money.
35. Poe created / invented the _____ story.
36. In 1843, Poe published _____, where the narrator proclaims his sanity and explains how he chopped up an old man.
37. Perhaps no story has struck closer to Poe's soul as _____.
38. The disease _____ killed many of Poe's family.
39. The red death probably symbolized _____ because of the _____.
40. In 1842, Poe noticed that Virginia had consumption / TB when she _____ and had _____ on her lips.
41. In 1845, Poe achieved greatest fame with his poem, _____.
42. Poe's nickname became _____.
43. Poe earned \$ _____ for this poem.
44. (True or False) People flocked to see Poe perform dramatic renditions of "The Raven."
45. "The Raven" tells the story of a poet longing for _____.
46. As he wrote the poem, his own _____ was dying.
47. In 1846, Poe moved his dying wife to a cottage in _____.
48. Poe worked approximately _____ hours a day.
49. (True or False) Poe eventually recovered from the loss of Virginia.
50. Poe summoned his child-like bride in his poem, _____.
51. Poe proposed to Helen Whitman in a _____.
52. Poe's reputation as a _____ doomed his hopes.

53. Poe became _____ to Elmira Shelton in 1849. He headed to New York to tell Maria Clemm.
54. The last people to see Poe in Richmond commented on _____.
55. On October 3, 1849, Poe was found semi-conscious on a _____ street.
56. What is one theory on what happened to Poe?

57. Poe was carried into a _____.
58. (True or False) Poe was delirious toward the end of his life.
59. Poe died on _____, _____, _____.
60. Poe desired _____ and found only _____.

POE'S DEATH

Go to <http://knowingpoe.thinkport.org>
Click on "Poe the Person"
Click on "It'll Be the Death of Me"

Poe's death is surrounded by mystery. State a brief description of what we know and what we don't know about Poe's final days of life.

Certain clues point to different reasons for his death. What clues have led experts to the following conclusions?

Was it **CHOLERA** or **MERCURY POISONING**?

CLUE 1	CLUE 2	CLUE 3	CLUE 4	CLUE 5
--------	--------	--------	--------	--------

Was it **CONSUMPTION** or **TUBERCULOSIS**?

CLUE 1	CLUE 2
--------	--------

Was it **HEART DISEASE**?

CLUE 1	CLUE 2	CLUE 3
--------	--------	--------

**Was it GAS LIGHTING or CARBON MONOXIDE
POISONING?**

CLUE 1

CLUE 2

CLUE 3

CLUE 4

Was it BRAIN LESIONS?

CLUE 1

CLUE 2

CLUE 3

Was it CROOKED ELECTIONS?

CLUE 1

CLUE 2

CLUE 3

CLUE 4

Was it ALCOHOLISM?

CLUE 1

CLUE 2

CLUE 3

Was it RABIES from CAVS?

CLUE 1

CLUE 2

CLUE 3

CLUE 4

CLUE 5

What is **your** theory and why?

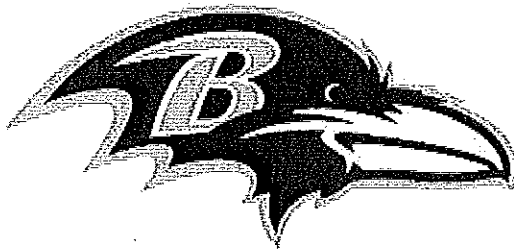
BONUS #1

Who was making the noises and talking in the basement of the library?

BONUS #2

Who is the POE TOASTER? Why is it such a mystery?

BONUS #3



Where did the Baltimore Ravens get their name? Explain

Poe's Legacy

Visit the <http://knowingpoe.thinkport.org> site. Roam around the area to discover the answers to the exciting thoughts and works left to us by the great Edgar Allan Poe.

Edgar Allan Poe was an **orphan** at the age of _____.

He was a schoolboy who had **mastered** even the most complex _____ works by the time he was a teenager.

He was a man deeply connected with the **city of** _____.

Poe was **the inventor of the** _____ story.

He was the **father of the modern American** _____.

He was the architect who **helped the world discover** _____ as a literary genre.

He was an **important** _____ who helped define American literature, film, and other arts.

Edgar Allan Poe's work has been _____ by some and _____ by others.

Ask any three people who have witnessed an accident — and they will probably tell you three different stories. The stories may be somewhat the same. However, each person would share how things looked from their _____
_____. **This is a technique** Poe added to make his writings come to life.

Poe built **his short story "The Gold Bug"** around a _____. The main character has to know how ciphers work in order to solve this mystery.

Edgar Allan Poe was a **prolific writer**. List at least five of his poems and five of his short stories in the spaces below.

POEMS

SHORT STORIES

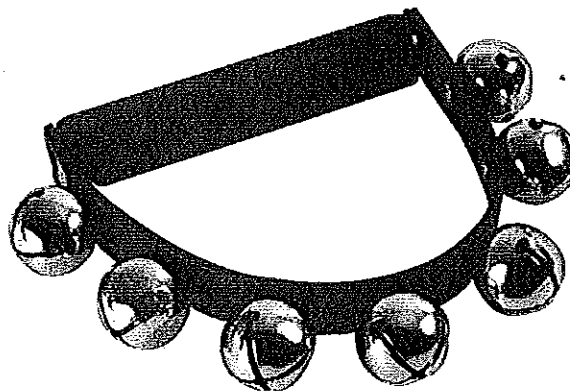
THE BELLS

By Edgar Allan Poe

The Bells occurs in four parts, and each part has a different set of bells representing a different stage of life. Read and consider what kind of bells are described in each section and what stage of life is portrayed.

I

Hear the sledges with the bells--
Silver bells!
What a world of merriment their melody foretells!
How they tinkle, tinkle, tinkle,
In the icy air of night!
While the stars that oversprinkle
All the heavens, seem to twinkle
With a crystalline delight;
Keeping time, time, time,
In a sort of Runic rhyme,
To the tintinnabulation that so musically wells
From the bells, bells, bells, bells,
Bells, bells, bells--
From the jingling and the tinkling of the bells.



sledges – sleighs

crystalline – clear crystal
tintinnabulation – sound of a bell ringing

runic – ancient

II

Hear the mellow wedding bells
Golden bells!
What a world of happiness their harmony foretells!
Through the balmy air of night
How they ring out their delight!
From the molten-golden notes,
And all in tune,
What a liquid ditty floats
To the turtle-dove that listens, while she gloats
On the moon!
Oh, from out the sounding cells,
What a gush of euphony voluminously wells!
How it swells!
How it dwells
On the Future! how it tells
Of the rapture that impels
To the swinging and the ringing
Of the bells, bells, bells,
Of the bells, bells, bells, bells,
Bells, bells, bells--
To the rhyming and the chiming of the bells!



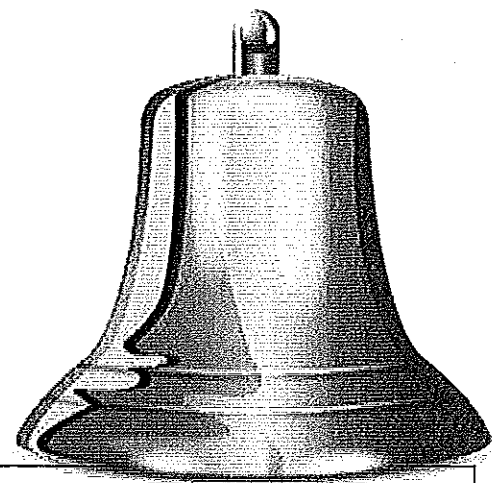
euphony – pleasant sound

voluminously – largely
rapture – delightful feeling

impels – pushes onward

III

Hear the loud alarum bells--
Brazen bells!
What tale of terror, now, their turbulency tells!
In the startled ear of night
How they scream out their affright!
Too much horrified to speak,
They can only shriek, shriek,
Out of tune,
In a clamorous appealing to the mercy of the fire,
In a mad expostulation with the deaf and frantic fire,
Leaping higher, higher, higher,
With a desperate desire,
And a resolute endeavor
Now--now to sit or never,
By the side of the pale-faced moon.
Oh, the bells, bells, bells!
What a tale their terror tells
Of Despair!
How they clang, and clash, and roar!
What a horror they outpour
On the bosom of the palpitating air!
Yet the ear, it fully knows,
By the twanging,
And the clanging,
How the danger ebbs and flows;
Yet, the ear distinctly tells,
In the jangling,
And the wrangling,
How the danger sinks and swells,
By the sinking or the swelling in the anger of the bells--
Of the bells--
Of the bells, bells, bells, bells,
Bells, bells, bells--
In the clamour and the clangour of the bells!



turbulency – violent movement

alarum - alarm

resolute – determined

brazen – rudely bold

expostulation – attempt at persuading

endeavor – determined effort

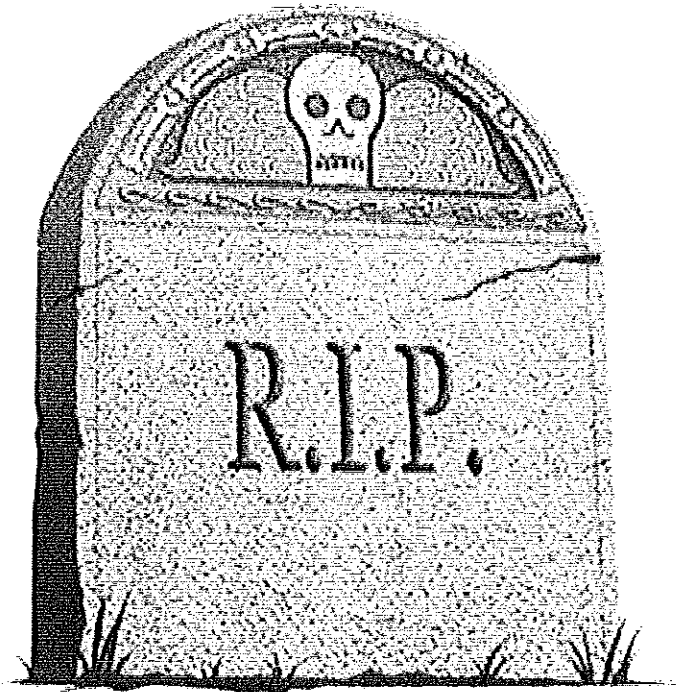
affright – fear

palpitating - throbbing

IV

Hear the tolling of the bells--
Iron bells!
What a world of solemn thought their monody compels!
In the silence of the night,
How we shiver with affright
At the melancholy meaning of their tone!
For every sound that floats
From the rust within their throats
Is a groan.
And the people--ah, the people--
They that dwell up in the steeple,
All alone,
And who, tolling, tolling, tolling,
In that muffled monotone,
Feel a glory in so rolling
On the human heart a stone--
They are neither man nor woman--
They are neither brute nor human--
They are Ghouls:--
And their king it is who tolls;
And he rolls, rolls, rolls, rolls,
Rolls
A pæan from the bells!
And his merry bosom swells
With the pæan of the bells!
And he dances, and he yells;
Keeping time, time, time,
In a sort of Runic rhyme,
To the pæan of the bells--
Of the bells:
Keeping time, time, time,
In a sort of Runic rhyme,
To the throbbing of the bells--
Of the bells, bells, bells--
To the sobbing of the bells;
Keeping time, time, time,
As he knells, knells, knells,
In a happy Runic rhyme,
To the rolling of the bells--
Of the bells, bells, bells--
To the tolling of the bells,
Of the bells, bells, bells, bells--
Bells, bells, bells--
To the moaning and the groaning of the bells.

monody – death song
melancholy – sad monotone
monotone – single note
ghouls – evil graveyard spirits
pæan – song of triumph
runic – secret or mysterious
knells - rings





"Bells, Bells, Bells"

Go to <http://knowingpoe.thinkport.org>
Click on "Poe the Writer"
Click on "The Bells"

Read and listen to the poem "Bells, Bells, Bells." Each stanza represents a time of life. Read and analyze each stanza. Then record your thoughts in the appropriate boxes below.

STANZA 1 represents _____

Summarize what you think Poe was trying to say in the stanza.

List the images Poe used to set the tone of the stanza.

What words did Poe use to help set the tone of the stanza?

How did Poe use color to express mood in this stanza?

What sounds did Poe use in this stanza to set the tone?

What musical instrument would you choose to express the tone of this stanza?

STANZA 2 represents _____

Summarize what you think Poe was trying to say in the stanza.

List the images Poe used to set the tone of the stanza.

What words did Poe use to help set the tone of the stanza?

How did Poe use color to express mood in this stanza?

What sounds did Poe use in this stanza to set the tone?

What musical instrument would you choose to express the tone of this stanza?

STANZA 3 represents _____

Summarize what you think Poe was trying to say in the stanza.

List the images Poe used to set the tone of the stanza.

What words did Poe use to help set the tone of the stanza?

How did Poe use color to express mood in this stanza?

What sounds did Poe use in this stanza to set the tone?

What musical instrument would you choose to express the tone of this stanza?

STANZA 4 represents _____

Summarize what you think Poe was trying to say in the stanza.

List the images Poe used to set the tone of the stanza.

What words did Poe use to help set the tone of the stanza?

How did Poe use color to express mood in this stanza?

What sounds did Poe use in this stanza to set the tone?

What musical instrument would you choose to express the tone of this stanza?

From what you've learned about Poe's life, how does this poem mirror his own personal experiences?

The Tell Tale Heart

By Edgar Allan Poe

Name _____

Date _____

house

two
eyes

young
man

hated

ugly eye

guilt

death buried

tub, blood, knife

crazy

floor

confession

Use the words above to write your own prediction about the plot of Edgar Allan Poe's famous story, "The Tell Tale Heart" on the back of this paper.

ELEMENTS OF POETRY

In "The Raven"

Name _____

Date _____

FORM - _____

Lines - _____

Stanzas - _____

SOUND - _____

Rhyme - _____

Example - _____

Internal Rhyme - _____

Example - _____

End Rhyme - _____

Example - _____

Rhyme Scheme - _____

Example - _____

Rhythm - _____

Example - _____

Meter - _____

Example - _____

Repetition - _____

Example - _____

Alliteration - _____

Example - _____

Assonance - _____

Example - _____

Consonance - _____

Example - _____

Onomatopoeia - _____

Example - _____

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE - _____

Simile - _____

Example - _____

Metaphor - _____

Example - _____

Personification - _____

Example - _____

IMAGERY - _____

Example - _____

SYMBOLISM - _____

Example - _____

THEME - _____

Example - _____

THE RAVEN

This is probably Poe's most famous poem. "The Raven" is a great poem to read out loud. It's a bit long, but with some practice you can read it with the kind of expression that will give your friends goosebumps.

The poem opens on a man alone in his house. He is very sad over the death of Lenore, the woman he loved, and he is reading to relieve his sorrow. He hears what he thinks is a person knocking at his door. Eventually he learns that it is not a person at all but a bird—a raven. At first he is amused, but soon grows sad. The bird can say only one word, "Nevermore," and that word reminds him that nothing can bring back his lost Lenore.

Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary,
Over many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore—
While I nodded, nearly napping, suddenly there came a tapping,
As of some one gently rapping, rapping at my chamber door.
"Tis some visitor," I muttered, "tapping at my chamber door—
Only this and nothing more."

Ah, distinctly I remember it was in the bleak December;
And each separate dying ember wrought its ghost upon the floor.
Eagerly I wished the morrow;—vainly I had sought to borrow
From my books surcease of sorrow—sorrow for the lost Lenore—
For the rare and radiant maiden whom the angels name Lenore—
Nameless here for evermore.

And the silken, sad, uncertain rustling of each purple curtain
Thrilled me—filled me with fantastic terrors never felt before;
So that now, to still the beating of my heart, I stood repeating
"Tis some visitor entreating entrance at my chamber door—
Some late visitor entreating entrance at my chamber door;—
This it is and nothing more."

Presently my soul grew stronger; hesitating then no longer,
"Sir," said I, "or Madam, truly your forgiveness I implore;
But the fact is I was napping, and so gently you came rapping,
And so faintly you came tapping, tapping at my chamber door,
That I scarce was sure I heard you"—here I opened wide the door;—
Darkness there and nothing more.

lore—legend surcease—an end entreating—requesting

Deep into that darkness peering, long I stood there wondering, fearing,
Doubting, dreaming dreams no mortal ever dared to dream before;
But the silence was unbroken, and the stillness gave no token,
And the only word there spoken was the whispered word, "Lenore!"
This I whispered, and an echo murmured back the word "Lenore!"
Merely this and nothing more.

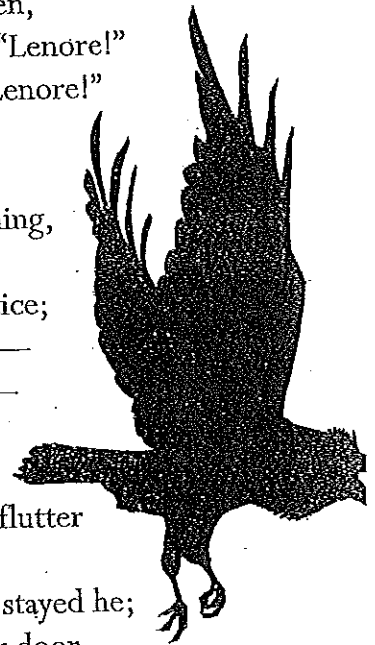
Back into the chamber turning, all my soul within me burning,
Soon again I heard a tapping somewhat louder than before.
"Surely," said I, "surely that is something at my window lattice;
Let me see, then, what thereat is, and this mystery explore—
Let my heart be still a moment and this mystery explore;—
'Tis the wind and nothing more!"

Open here I flung the shutter, when with many a flirt and flutter
In there stepped a stately Raven of the saintly days of yore;
Not the least obeisance made he; not a minute stopped or stayed he;
But, with mien of lord or lady, perched above my chamber door—
Perched upon a bust of Pallas just above my chamber door—
Perched, and sat, and nothing more.

Then this ebony bird beguiling my sad fancy into smiling,
But the grave and stern decorum of the countenance it wore,
"Though thy crest be shorn and shaven, thou," I said, "art sure no craven,
Ghastly grim and ancient Raven wandering from the Nightly shore—
Tell me what thy lordly name is on the Night's Plutonian shore!"
Quoth the Raven, "Nevermore."

Much I marveled this ungainly fowl to hear discourse so plainly,
Though its answer little meaning—little relevancy bore;
For we cannot help agreeing that no living human being
Ever yet was blessed with seeing bird above his chamber door—
Bird or beast upon the sculptured bust above his chamber door,
With such name as "Nevermore."

token—clue lattice—window covering made from strips of crossed wood yore—long ago
obeisance—sign of obedience mien—appearance Pallas—Athena, goddess of wisdom
ebony—black beguiling—charming decorum—dignity countenance—facial expression craven—coward
Plutonian—deathly ungainly—clumsy discourse—speech relevancy—importance



But the Raven, sitting lonely on that placid bust, spoke only
That one word, as if his soul in that one word he did outpour.
Nothing further then he uttered—not a feather then he fluttered—
Till I scarcely more than muttered, “Other friends have flown before—
On the morrow *he* will leave me, as my hopes have flown before.”
Then the bird said “Nevermore.”

Startled at the stillness broken by reply so aptly spoken,
“Doubtless,” said I, “what it utters is its only stock and store
Caught from some unhappy master whom unmerciful Disaster
Followed fast and followed faster till his songs one burden bore—
Till the dirges of his Hope the melancholy burden bore
Of ‘Never—nevermore.’”

But the Raven still beguiling my sad fancy into smiling,
Straight I wheeled a cushioned seat in front of bird, and bust and door;
Then, upon the velvet sinking, I betook myself to linking
Fancy unto fancy, thinking what this ominous bird of yore—
What this grim, ungainly, ghastly, gaunt, and ominous bird of yore
Meant in croaking “Nevermore.”

This I sat engaged in guessing, but no syllable expressing
To the fowl whose fiery eyes now burned into my bosom's core;
This and more I sat divining, with my head at ease reclining
On the cushion's velvet lining that the lamp-light gloated o'er,
But whose velvet violet lining with the lamp-light gloating o'er,
She shall press, ah, nevermore!

Then, methought, the air grew denser, perfumed from an unseen censer
Swung by Seraphim whose foot-falls tinkled on the tufted floor.
“Wretch,” I cried, “thy God hath lent thee—by these angels he hath sent thee
Respite—respite and nepenthe from thy memories of Lenore;
Quaff, oh quaff this kind nepenthe and forget this lost Lenore!”
Quoth the Raven “Nevermore.”

dirges—burial songs *ominous—spooky* *divining—coming to a conclusion* *denser—thicker*
censer—incense burner *seraphim—angel* *nepenthe—drink that causes forgetfulness* *quaff—to drink*

"Prophet!" said I, "thing of evil!—prophet still, if bird or devil!—
Whether Tempter sent, or whether tempest tossed thee here ashore,
Desolate yet all undaunted, on this desert land enchanted—
On this home by Horror haunted—tell me truly, I implore—
Is there—is there balm in Gilead?—tell me—tell me, I implore!"

Quoth the Raven "Nevermore."

"Prophet!" said I, "thing of evil!—prophet still, if bird or devil
By that Heaven that bends above us—by that God we both adore—
Tell this soul with sorrow laden if, within the distant Aidenn,
It shall clasp a sainted maiden whom the angels name Lenore—
Clasp a rare and radiant maiden whom the angels name Lenore."

Quoth the Raven "Nevermore."

"Be that word our sign of parting, bird or fiend!" I shrieked, upstarting—
"Get thee back into the tempest and the Night's Plutonian shore!
Leave no black plume as a token of that lie thy soul hath spoken!
Leave my loneliness unbroken!—quit the bust above my door!
Take thy beak from out my heart, and take thy form from off my door!"

Quoth the Raven "Nevermore."

And the Raven, never flitting, still is sitting, *still* is sitting
On the pallid bust of Pallas just above my chamber door;
And his eyes have all the seeming of a demon's that is dreaming,
And the lamp-light o'er him streaming throws his shadow on the floor;
And my soul from out that shadow that lies floating on the floor
Shall be lifted—nevermore!



tempter—devil tempest—storm desolate—alone undaunted—unafraid balm—soothing oil
Gilead—ancient place in the Middle East known for its balm Aidenn—Aidin, a rich province of Turkey
plume—feather pallid—pale

"THE RAVEN"

Marking Up the Text - RUBRIC

Name _____

Date _____

Try to use a variety of colors (highlighters and pencils) to make your final marked-up text easier to follow. When you highlight – highlight the instruction below with the same color. When you

SKILL	Check that you've marked it up	Teacher Grade
1. Underline all irregularly capitalized words		
2. Number stanzas		
3. Define unfamiliar words		
4. Circle internal rhymes		
5. Label rhyme scheme		
6. Label meter (<i>just stanza #1</i>)		
7. Highlight repetition		
8. Underline alliteration		
9. Circle consonance		
10. Circle assonance		
11. Highlight onomatopoeia		
12. Highlight similes		
13. Highlight metaphors		
14. Highlight personification		
15. Box in imagery		
16. Circle and annotate symbols		
17. Sentence summaries of each stanza (on back)		
TOTALS		

"THE RAVEN"

Sentence Summaries of Stanzas

Stanza	Sentence Summary
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	