

Name _____
Period _____
Date _____



Knowing Poe: An Interactive Website Exploration Assignment

http://knowingpoe.thinkport.org/default_flash.asp

Good Day, fine Scholar! Welcome to your first day as an Edgar Allan Poe fan! Imagine my shock when I learned that some of you didn't even know who Edgar Allan Poe was! The DEBAUCHERY of it!! Today you will use the website above to learn about the genius that was Poe. Some items are to be turned in while others are just for your viewing/listening pleasure. Make sure to complete all necessary components of each section...because there may be a quiz on them tomorrow. Or not...BWAH HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA! (that would be an eerie, wicked cackle)

1. All About Poe

On the left-hand side of the page, click "Poe: The Person", then click "Interactive Timeline".

Use the interactive timeline to fill in the information on the Timeline Organizer Handout. Be sure to put your name on your paper and turn it in!

2. “It’ll Be The Death of Me”

On the left-hand side of the page, click “Poe: The Person”, then click “It’ll Be the Death of Me.”

This is an interactive mystery in which you explore the theories surrounding Poe’s mysterious death. Be thorough! Don’t stop until you get to the end of the activity—it will say “The End” in the bottom right hand corner. Solve the mystery, but beware...BWAH HA HA HA HA HA! (Again – eerie cackle)

Detective: In this space, state your resolution to Poe’s death. How do you think he died? Why? Use evidence from this site to explain your decision.

3. “Annotated Poe” – “The Raven”

On the left-hand side of the main page, click “Poe: The Writer” then click on “Annotated Poe”

Read the page of instructions. Then click on the red link at the bottom. This will allow you to view the poem “The Raven” and look at some annotations. Please make sure to click either “Watch the video” or “Listen to the Audio” to help make your experience more realistic.

We will be using the poem in class soon, so make sure to pay attention. Enjoy!

4. Point of View

On the left-hand side of the page, click “Poe: The Writer” then click “Point of View”.

What's the story? Well, it depends on your point of view.

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 point of view.

When authors write, they carefully choose the point of view from which they will tell a story. This activity is your chance to see how much of a difference it can make in a story.

You can choose to look at Poe's short story "The Cask of Amontillado" through *three different lenses*.

- Through the eyes of the **protagonist**, Montresor. When Poe wrote this tale, he selected Montresor as its narrator. (Text courtesy the Edgar Allan Poe Society of Baltimore)
- Through the eyes of the **antagonist**, Fortunato.
- Through the eyes of a **narrator who is not part of the story**.

Be prepared to discuss your thoughts! We will read this story in class, too!

5. My Tell-Tale Heart

On the left-hand side of the page, click on "Poe: The Writer", then scroll down and click "My Tell-Tale Heart"

In this activity, you will create your own personal reading of Poe's famous short story "*The Tell-Tale Heart*". People who read this story about an insane, murdering man often have strong reactions. They think about what is going on in his mind. They wonder when or if he will kill. They think of other stories or movies about horrible men. *Hundreds* of thoughts about characters, the story, and the way Poe tells it fly through their heads. But usually, those thoughts stay in your head.

This activity is about getting the weird, cool, gross, surprising, and *interesting* thoughts you're thinking out of your brain. Using the icons, you will add **annotations**, or your thoughts, questions, ideas, and observations to Poe's story. After you write them down, compare your reading with your classmates, teachers, and parents. You might be surprised what they are thinking!

When you open the interactive, you'll see part of Poe's *The Tell-Tale Heart* on the left. On the right, you'll see annotation marks like exclamation points for things that surprise you, question marks for questions or things that confuse you, and so on. Simply click on an icon with your mouse and drag it to the place in the story you'd like to remember or comment on. A text box will open where you can type your comment. Click the HELP button to learn what the annotation marks can be used for. When you're finished reading a section, click the NEXT button to turn the page.

As you work, you can also listen to a narrator read the text. Press the play button on the narrator bar to hear the story read to you.

When you're finished, you'll be able to:

- Print your personal reading of *The Tell-Tale Heart*, complete with your annotations, or
- Email your personal reading of *The Tell-Tale Heart*, complete with your annotations, to a teacher, parent, or friend

WARNING: Once you leave this activity, all your annotations will be lost. So be sure to print or email your version of the story before you explore other parts of the site or exit!