

For 8th grade only:

For the required novel - ***GREAT TALES AND POEMS OF EDGAR ALLAN POE***

FIRST: *You do not need to read the whole novel: Make sure you read ALL of this to FULLY understand what is being asked of you.*

Edgar Allan Poe is known as an American writer, poet, editor, and literary critic. Poe is best known for his poetry and short stories, particularly his tales of mystery and the macabre.

Poe lived a very sad life filled with the death of loved ones and continuous disappointments.

Many of EA Poe's tales and poems reflect some part of his life. The majority of his writings fall into the genre of HORROR. He is known as the "Master of the Macabre". (macabre - adjective- *disturbing and horrifying because of involvement with or depiction of death and injury.*)

As you read the following, keep in mind who or what part of his life might be in these tales and poems.

In this book, I want you to read the following:

The Introduction: (pages IX-XX) This will give you Edgar Allan Poe's life story and background into why he wrote the way he did.

Chronology of Edgar Allan Poe's Life and Work: (pages XXI-XXIII) This will give you a quick glance of Poe's life and work. Take note of the good and bad events that happen in Poe's life. How many people in Poe's life abandoned him?

The Tale-Tell Heart: (pages 3-9) After you read this, who do you think the narrator is? Who do you think is the "old man" in Poe's life? What does the "eye" represent?

The Cask of Amontillado: (pages 10-18) Which part of EA Poe's life is represented in this tale? Why does Montresor seek revenge on Fortunato?

The Raven: (pages 301-307) The Raven is a poem EA Poe wrote at a very difficult and sad time in his life. You may need to read this several times to understand the meaning of the poem.

The poem tells a story once you break it down. Use the vocabulary help below as you read the poem. Try and answer; *Who is the narrator and who is Lenore?*

- Lore: (N) -the body of knowledge, esp. of a traditional, anecdotal, or popular nature, on a particular subject.
- Morrow: (N) -tomorrow.
- Surcease: (V) -to come to an end.
- Entreat: (V) -to ask earnestly for (something).
- Obeisance: (N) -deference or homage.
- Beguile: (V) -to influence by trickery, flattery, etc.; mislead; delude.
- Countenance: (N) -appearance, esp. the look or expression of the face.
- Craven: (Adj) -cowardly; contemptibly timid.
- Discourse: (N) -communication of thought by words; talk; conversation.
- Placid: (Adj) -pleasantly calm or peaceful; unruffled; tranquil; serenely quiet or undisturbed.
- Melancholy: (N) -a gloomy state of mind, esp. when habitual or prolonged; depression.
- Ominous: (Adj) -portending evil or harm; foreboding; threatening.
- Plutonian: (Adj) -like the underworld; refers to Pluto, Greek and Roman god of the underworld.
- Pallid: (Adj) -pale; faint or deficient in color; wan.
- Chamber: (N) -a room, usually private, in a house or apartment, esp. a bedroom.

***If you choose to do the trailer project for this book, you need to include the names of the two tales and the poem and some facts from EA Poe's life.**

***If you choose to create an art project for this novel, it must have something that represents an important part of each of the two tales and the poem plus facts from EA Poe's life.**

If you are unsure, email me for clarification.

Thanks and have a relaxing and fun summer!

Mrs. Gimbel