

The Raven: Analysis Questions and Assignment

1. What point of view is used in this poem?
2. Characterize the narrator's state of mind...find 2 pieces of evidence to support this claim
3. Find 5 descriptive words about the Raven from the poem.
4. Based on descriptions of the bird, what can the Raven symbolize?
5. Why does Poe choose to use a Raven in this poem and not a Sparrow or a Parrot?
6. How is the Raven sitting on the bust of Athena symbolic?
7. Find one line containing internal rhyme and write it here:
8. Find one line containing alliteration and write it here:
9. Name one allusion to Greek mythology in the poem:
 - a. Why does Poe use that specific allusion?
10. Name one Biblical allusion in the poem:

- a. Why does Poe use that specific allusion?
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11. What is the TONE of the poem?
 - a. How does Poe create the tone? (diction, imagery, figurative language) and give 2 examples.
 12. MOOD is how YOU feel while reading the poem: What is the MOOD of this poem?
 - a. How does Poe create the mood?
 13. Some people claim that the narrator of the poem has dreamed this entire episode. What evidence can you find of this?
 14. Some people claim that the narrator of the poem has gone mentally insane. What evidence can you find of this?
 15. What do you think? Is the narrator dreaming, mentally unstable or just filled with grief?

Writing Assignment:

You will write a 6-line stanza imitating the 2nd stanza of "The Raven".

In this stanza, you will follow Poe's rhyme scheme, rhythm, alliteration and pattern of repetition of words or phrases.

Ah, distinctly I remember, it was in the bleak December,	A(internal rhyme)
And each separate dying ember wrought its ghost upon the floor.	B
Eagerly I wished the morrow; vainly I had sought to borrow	C (internal rhyme)
From my <u>books</u> surcease of sorrow, sorrow for the lost Lenore,.	B (alliteration)
For the rare and radiant maiden whom the angels name <u>Lenore</u> ,	B (end w/ same word)
Nameless here forevermore.	B

This stanza should be about sadness...what makes you sad? What do you do to feel better when you are sad?

Be sure to create a MELANCHOLY, FORLORN, LUGUBRIOUS, HEARTBROKEN, MOURNFUL, PENSIVE, GLOOMY TONE!! You can do this through your word choice and the words that you choose to repeat.