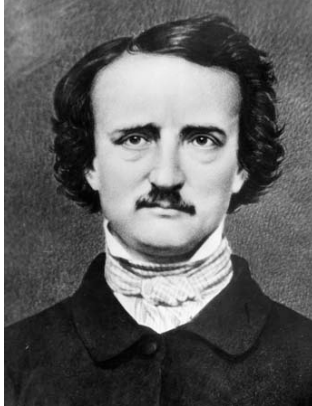


“The Tell-Tale Heart” by Edgar Allan Poe

Activity Packet



Name _____ L.A. Period _____

Your score _____ out of 30 points possible
(Covers plot elements, comprehension, figurative language,
mood, character traits, , and setting)

Pre-Reading Guide for "Tall-Tale Heart"

Name _____ Period _____ (5 pts.)

Describe five things that you usually find in a scary/horror story:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Read the following statements. If you agree with them, put a check in the YOU column. Then, AFTER we read the story, go back and put a check in the AUTHOR column if you feel the author agrees with that statement.

YOU AUTHOR STATEMENT

- | | | |
|-----|-------|--|
| ___ | _____ | 1. People who are insane know that they are insane. |
| ___ | _____ | 2. Sane people sometimes imagine that they hear things. |
| ___ | _____ | 3. If you commit a crime, the worst punishment is the guilt afterward. |
| ___ | _____ | 4. Often it's the small annoying things about people that can be the most irritating and infuriating. |
| ___ | _____ | 5. All people are basically afraid of the same things. |
| ___ | _____ | 6. When you've done something wrong, wondering if you'll be caught can cause great stress and anxiety. |

After reading "Tell-Tale Heart" by Poe, answer the following questions using short answers. They do not need to be complete sentences, but answer each part of the question thoroughly.

1. Who is telling this story (narrating)? Is it first, second, or third person?
2. What is your first impression of the narrator? What does he try convincing the reader of?
3. How does the narrator feel about the old man in general? What, then, specifically, is it about the old man that troubles/bothers the narrator? Why? How often does the narrator mention this "thing" in the story?
4. What does the narrator tell us he does every night? Why?
5. How does the narrator feel immediately after he commits the murder? Do his feelings change? If so, how and why?

6. What sound drives the narrator to confess to the crime? What do you think causes his paranoia?

7. Give **two direct and specific examples** from the story that the author uses to create an atmosphere of horror or suspense. These are sentences that set or enhance the MOOD of the story. Give the page number.

8. Give one example where the author uses punctuation or repeated words or phrases in a sentence to show the mood of horror or suspense.

9. Find one example of each of the following:

a. **Alliteration** – Pg. ____ _____

b. **Simile** – Pg. ____ _____

10. c. **Personification** – Pg. ____ _____

d. **Assonance** – Pg. ____ _____