

## "The Tell-Tale Heart" by Edgar Allan Poe

Write a Response to Literature answering the question: How does Edgar Allan Poe keep the reader in suspense? Complete the following activities to help you create your response.

**Tone:** Identify tone used in the story. Reread the story and write down all the words that suggest fear and horror.

**Atmosphere:** Poe uses language and literary devices to make the reader feel tense during the story. How does the first sentence create suspense?

Poe uses noises to create atmosphere in the story. The main character says, "I heard many things in hell." One example is "hinges creaked". This might make the reader think of a scary movie where we want to know who is behind that door. Poe may have used this to add to the idea of slow action. A spooky noise from an old, neglected house adds to the dark atmosphere of the story. What are 2 examples of noises being used? What effect do each have on the reader? What may be the reason Poe would choose that noise?

Poe talks about time throughout the story. Find three places in the text where time is going slowly in the story. Find two places in the text where time is going fast in the story. Why does Poe mention time so much in the story? Why does he change the pace from slow to fast?

**Repetition:** Poe repeats words in this story (ex. "very, very slowly"). Write down 3 places where repetition is used and explain why Poe is repeating words or phrases here.

**Imagery:** Poe describes everything in great detail. The reader can imagine the story as if watching a movie.

List some of the words he uses that would be described as "evil". How does he make the "eye" and death sound disgusting?

**Point of View:** The story is written in first person. It is narrated by the main character and sometimes he directly refers to the reader. List 3 times where the main character directly refers to the reader. Why would Poe do this? Why does Poe have the murderer tell the story?