“The Raven”
“The Raven”

Read and Take Margin Notes!
I started you off with some, but you must add to them!

Due Date: __________
"The Raven"
Edgar Allan Poe

1 Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary, A
Over many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore— B
While I nodded, nearly napping, suddenly there came a tapping, C
As of some one gently rapping, rapping at my chamber door. B
"'Tis some visitor," I muttered, "'tapping at my chamber door— B
Only this and nothing more."

2 Ah, distinctly I remember it was in the bleak December; A
And each separate dying ember wrought its ghost upon the floor. A
Eagerly I wished the morrow;—vainly I had sought to borrow A
From my books surcease of sorrow—sorrow for the lost Lenore— A
For the rare and radiant maiden whom the angels name Lenore— A
Nameless here for evermore.

3 And the silken, sad, uncertain rustling of each purple curtain A
Thrilled me—filled me with fantastic fears never felt before; A
So that now, to still the beating of my heart, I stood repeating A
"'Tis some visitor entreating entrance at my chamber door— A
Some late visitor entreating entrance at my chamber door;— A
This it is and nothing more."

4 Presently my soul grew stronger; hesitating then no longer, A
"Sir," said I, "or Madam, truly your forgiveness I implore, A
But the fact is I was napping, and so gently you came rapping, A
And so faintly you came tapping, tapping at my chamber door, A
That I scarce was sure I heard you"—here I opened wide the door;— A
Darkness there and nothing more.
Deep into that darkness peering, long I stood there wondering, fearing,
Doubting, dreaming dreams no mortal ever dared to dream before;
But the silence was unbroken, and the stillness gave no token,
And the only word there spoken was the whispered word, "Lenore?"
This I whispered, and an echo murmured back the word, "Lenore!"
Merely this and nothing more.

Back into the chamber turning, all my soul within me burning,
Soon again I heard a tapping somewhat louder than before.
"Surely," said I, "surely that is something at my window lattice,
Let me see, then, what thereat is, and this mystery explore—
Let my heart be still a moment and this mystery explore;—
'Tis the wind and nothing more!"

Open here I flung the shutter, when, with many a flirt and flutter,
In there stepped a stately Raven of the saintly days of yore,
Not the least obeisance made he; not a minute stopped or stayed he;
But, with mien of lord or lady, perched above my chamber door—
Perched upon a bust of Pallas just above my chamber door—
Perched, and sat, and sat, and nothing more.

Then this ebony bird beguiling my sad fancy into smiling,
By the grave and stern decorum of the countenance it wore,
"Though thy crest be shorn and shaven, thou," I said, "art sure no craven,
Ghastly grim and ancient Raven wandering from the Nightly shore—
Tell me what thy lordly name is on the Night's Plutonian shore!"
Quoth the Raven "Nevermore."
Much I marvelled this ungainly fowl to hear discourse so plainly,
Though its answer little meaning—little relevancy bore;
For we cannot help agreeing that no living human being
Ever yet was blessed with seeing bird above his chamber door—
Bird or beast upon the sculptured bust above his chamber door,
With such name as "Nevermore."

But the Raven, sitting lonely on the placid bust, spoke only
That one word, as if his soul in that one word he did outpour.
Nothing farther then he uttered—not a feather then he fluttered—
Till I scarcely more than muttered "Other friends have flown before—
On the morrow he will leave me, as my Hopes have flown before."
Then the bird said "Nevermore."

Startled at the stillness broken by reply so aptly spoken,
"Doubtless," said I, "what it utters is its only stock and store
Caught from some unhappy master whom unmerciful Disaster
Followed fast and followed faster till his songs one burden bore—
Till the dirges of his Hope that melancholy burden bore
Of 'Never—nevermore."

But the Raven still beguiling all my fancy into smiling,
Straight I wheeled a cushioned seat in front of bird, and bust and door;
Then, upon the velvet sinking, I betook myself to linking
Fancy unto fancy, thinking what this ominous bird of yore—What
this grim, ungainly, ghastly, gaunt, and ominous bird of yore
Meant in croaking "Nevermore."
This I sat engaged in guessing, but no syllable expressing
To the fowl whose fiery eyes now burned into my bosom's core;
This and more I sat divining, with my head at ease reclining
On the cushion's velvet lining that the lamp-light gloated o'er,
But whose velvet-violet lining with the lamp-light gloating o'er,
Shall press, ah, nevermore!

Then, methought, the air grew denser, perfumed from an unseen censer
Swung by Seraphim whose foot-falls tinkled on the tufted floor.
"Wretch," I cried, "thy God hath lent thee—by these angels he hath sent thee
Respite—respite and nepenthe from thy memories of Lenore;
Quaff, oh quaff this kind nepenthe and forget this lost Lenore!"
Quoth the Raven "Nevermore."

"Prophet!" said I, "thing of evil!—prophet still, if bird or devil!—
Whether Tempter sent, or whether tempest tossed thee here ashore,
Desolate yet all undaunted; on this desert land enchanted—
On this home by Horror haunted—tell me truly, I implore—
Is there—is there balm in Gilead?—tell me—tell me, I implore!"
Quoth the Raven "Nevermore."

"Prophet!" said I, "thing of evil!—prophet still, if bird or devil!
By that Heaven that bends above us—by that God we both adore—
Tell this soul with sorrow laden if, within the distant Aidenn,
It shall clasp a sainted maiden whom the angels name Lenore—
Clasp a rare and radiant maiden whom the angels name Lenore."
Quoth the Raven "Nevermore."
"Be that word our sign of parting, bird or fiend!" I shrieked, upstarting—
"Get thee back into the tempest and the Night's Plutonian shore!
Leave no black plume as a token of that lie thy soul hath spoken!
Leave my loneliness unbroken!—quit the bust above my door!
Take thy beak from out my heart, and take thy form from off my door!"
Quoth the Raven "Nevermore."

And the Raven, never flitting, still is sitting, sits sitting
On the pallid bust of Pallas just above my chamber door;
And his eyes have all the seeming of a demon's that is dreaming,
And the lamp-light o'er him streaming throws his shadow on the floor;
And my soul from out that shadow that lies floating on the floor
Shall be lifted—nevermore!
Annotating & Analyzing "The Raven"

Suggested Materials:
* 4 Different Color Highlighters/Colored Pencils
* Pencil
"The Raven"
Edgar Allan Poe

1. Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary,
   Over many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore—
   While I nodded, nearly napping, suddenly there came a tapping,
   As of some one gently rapping, rapping at my chamber door.
   "'Tis some visitor," I muttered, "tapping at my chamber door—
   Only this and nothing more."

2. Ah, distinctly I remember it was in the bleak December;
   And each separate dying ember wrought its ghost upon the floor.
   Eagerly I wished the morrow;—vainly I had sought to borrow
   From my books surcease of sorrow—sorrow for the lost Lenore—
   For the rare and radiant maiden whom the angels name Lenore—
   Nameless here for evermore.

3. And the silken, sad, uncertain rustling of each purple curtain
   Thrilled me—filled me with fantastic terrors never felt before;
   So that now, to still the beating of my heart, I stood repeating
   "'Tis some visitor entreating entrance at my chamber door—
   Some late visitor entreating entrance at my chamber door;—
   This it is and nothing more."

4. Presently my soul grew stronger; hesitating then no longer,
   "Sir," said I, "or Madam, truly your forgiveness I implore,
   But the fact is I was napping, and so gently you came rapping,
   And so faintly you came tapping, tapping at my chamber door,
   That I scarce was sure I heard you"—here I opened wide the door;—
   Darkness there and nothing more.
5 Deep into that darkness peering, long I stood there wondering, fearing,
   Doubting, dreaming dreams no mortal ever dared to dream before;
   But the silence was unbroken, and the stillness gave no token,
   And the only word there spoken was the whispered word, “Lenore?”
   This I whispered, and an echo murmured back the word, “Lenore!”—
   Merely this and nothing more.

6 Back into the chamber turning, all my soul within me burning,
   Soon again I heard a tapping somewhat louder than before.
   “Surely,” said I, “surely that is something at my window lattice,
   Let me see, then, what thereat is, and this mystery explore—
   Let my heart be still a moment and this mystery explore;—
   ’Tis the wind and nothing more!”

7 Open here I flung the shutter, when, with many a flirt and flutter,
   In there stepped a stately Raven of the saintly days of yore,
   Not the least obeisance made he; not a minute stopped or stayed he;
   But, with mien of lord or lady, perched above my chamber door—
   Perched upon a bust of Pallas just above my chamber door—
   Perched, and sat, and nothing more.

8 Then this ebony bird beguiling my sad fancy into smiling,
   By the grave and stern decorum of the countenance it wore,
   “Though thy crest be shorn and shaven, thou,” I said, “art sure no craven,
   Ghastly grim and ancient Raven wandering from the Nightly shore—
   Tell me what thy lordly name is on the Night’s Plutonian shore!”
   Quoth the Raven “Nevermore.”

Who does the narrator think is at his door? How do you know?

Highlight words/phrases in Stanza 5 to support your answer in PINK.

Why is the narrator’s “soul within me burning”?

In stanza 7, the raven flies into the narrator’s chamber. Where does he perch? Give a specific answer.

Highlight words/phrases in Stanza 7 to support your answer in ORANGE.

What is the narrator’s first reaction to the raven?

Highlight words/phrases in Stanza 8 to support your answer in YELLOW.

When the narrator asks the raven his name, what does he answer?

Answer the questions above
Much I marvelled this ungainly fowl to hear discourse so plainly,
Though its answer little meaning—little relevancy bore;
For we cannot help agreeing that no living human being
Ever yet was blessed with seeing bird above his chamber door—
Bird or beast upon the sculptured bust above his chamber door,
With such name as "Nevermore."

But the Raven, sitting lonely on the placid bust, spoke only
That one word, as if his soul in that one word he did outpour.
Nothing farther then he uttered—not a feather then he fluttered—
Till I scarcely more than muttered "Other friends have flown before—
On the morrow he will leave me, as my Hopes have flown before."
Then the bird said "Nevermore."

Startled at the stillness broken by reply so aptly spoken,
"Doubtless," said I, "what it utters is its only stock and store .
Caught from some unhappy master whom unmerciful Disaster
Followed fast and followed faster till his songs one burden bore—
Till the dirges of his Hope that melancholy burden bore
Of 'Never—nevermore'."

But the Raven still beguiling all my fancy into smiling,
Straight I wheeled a cushioned seat in front of bird, and bust and door;
Then, upon the velvet sinking, I befooled myself to linking
Fancy unto fancy, thinking what this ominous bird of yore—
What this grim, ungainly, ghastly, gaunt, and ominous bird of yore
Meant in croaking "Nevermore."
13 This I sat engaged in guessing, but no syllable expressing  
To the fowl whose fiery eyes now burned into my bosom’s core;  
This and more I sat divining, with my head at ease reclining  
On the cushion’s velvet lining that the lamp-light gloated o’er,  
But whose velvet-violet lining with the lamp-light gloats o’er,  
She shall press, ah, nevermore!

14 Then, methought, the air grew denser, perfumed from an unseen censer  
Swung by Seraphim whose foot-falls tinkled on the tufted floor.  
"Wretch," I cried, "thy God hath lent thee—by these angels he hath sent thee  
Respite—respit and nepenthe from thy memories of Lenore;  
Quaff, oh quaff this kind nepenthe and forget this lost Lenore!"

Quoth the Raven "Nevermore." STOP HERE

Answer the questions above

STOP HERE

In stanza 14, the narrator begins to get angry. Why?

In stanza 15, the narrator begins to think the raven is evil. How do you know.

Highlight words/phrases that supports your answer.

What meaning does the word, "Nevermore" begin to take? How do you know?
"Be that word our sign of parting, bird or fiend." I shrieked, upstarting—
"Get thee back into the tempest and the Night's Plutonian shore!
Leave no black plume as a token of that lie thy soul hath spoken!
Leave my loneliness unbroken!—quit the bust above my door!
Take thy beak from out my heart, and take thy form from off my door!"

Quoth the Raven "Nevermore."

And the Raven, never flitting, still is sitting, still is sitting
On the pallid bust of Pallas just above my chamber door;
And his eyes have all the seeming of a demon's that is dreaming,
And the lamp-light o'er him streaming throws his shadow on the floor;
And my soul from out that shadow that lies floating on the floor
Shall be lifted—nevermore!
POE-try Like Poe!
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Edgar Allan Poe's, "The Raven", is one of the most prolific, haunting poems in history. Poe's storytelling, rhythm and rhyme gives way to a melancholic, haunting and beautiful display of words. How would you like to try writing like Poe?

The Structure of "The Raven"

Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary, 16
Over many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore— 17
While I nodded, nearly napping, suddenly there came a tapping, 16
As of some one gently rapping, rapping at my chamber door.
"'Tis some visitor," I muttered, "tapping at my chamber door—
Only this and nothing more."

16 Ah, distinctly I remember it was in the bleak December;
16 And each separate dying ember wrought its ghost upon the floor.
16 Eagerly I wished the morrow;—vainly I had sought to borrow
15 From my books surcease of sorrow—sorrow for the lost Lenore—
16 For the rare and radiant maiden whom the angels name Lenore—
7 Nameless here for evermore.

Words to Use in Your POE-try

'Tis - "It is" Quoth - Quote O'er - Over Thee - You Thy - Your Tempest - Storm Aghast - Terrifying
Beguile - Deception Buffoon - Clown Morrow - Tomorrow Sorrow - Sad Evermore - Forever Thou - You Agony - Suffering
Dirge - A song to mourn the dead Frenzied - Uncontrollable mania Ghastly - Shocked Quiver - Shake Soul, Ghost
Wretched - Terrible situation Lurk - Secretly wait Chamber - Room Utter - Whisper, Mumble Till - Until Said I - I said
Fiend - Enemy Adore - Love; cherish Shriek - Yelled in fear Hath - Have
POE-try Like Poe

You Try POE-try

1. How many syllables are in each line of the two stanzas? Write the number in the boxes provided.

1 And the silken, sad, uncertain rustling of each purple curtain

Thrilled me—filled me with fantastic terrors never felt before;

So that now, to still the beating of my heart, I stood repeating

"'Tis some visitor entreating entrance at my chamber door—

5 Some late visitor entreating entrance at my chamber door;—

This it is and nothing more."

Presently my soul grew stronger; hesitating then no longer,

"Sir," said I, "or Madam, truly your forgiveness I implore;

But the fact is I was napping, and so gently you came rapping,

10 And so faintly you came tapping, tapping at my chamber door,

That I scarce was sure I heard you"—here I opened wide the door;—

Darkness there and nothing more.

IN THE FIRST STANZA, WHAT WORDS RHYME?

IN THE SECOND STANZA, WHAT WORDS RHYME?
Write Like Poe

Now, it is your turn to write like Poe, and attempt to write a haunting, frightening poem using his style. Here are your requirements:

1. Create a NARRATIVE poem (4 stanzas—you can do more! Just ask your teacher!) that tells a story told through the narrator’s perspective—it should be haunting and frightening.
2. Include a beginning, middle and end.
3. Include a strong sense of narration told through first person perspective.
4. Keep the syllables between 15-17 syllables per line, except for the last line, which is 7 syllables.
5. Use Poe’s rhyme scheme from “The Raven”- A-B-C-B-B for all of your stanzas.
6. Use at least 4-5 of Edgar’s words from the word bank to add to your poem!
4. Be creative!

Poe’s Word Choice

'Tis - "It is" Quoth - Quote O'er - Over Thee - You Thy - Your Tempest - Storm Aghast - Terrifying
Beguile - Deception Buffoon - Clown Morrow - Tomorrow Sorrow - Sad Evermore - Forever Thou - You Agony - Suffering
Dirge - A song to mourn the dead Frenzied - Uncontrollable mania Ghostly - Shocked Quiver - Shake Soul, Ghost
Wretched - Terrible situation Lurk - Secretly wait Chamber - Room Utter - Whisper; Mumble Till - Until Said I - I said
Fiend - Enemy Adore - Love; cherish Shriek - Yelled in fear Hath - Have

"__________________________"

STANZA #1
*Remember to count your syllables for each line!
"The Raven"
Simpson Style!
"The Raven" Simpsons-Style

Watch:  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bLiXjaPqSyY
(You can also Google or look up on YouTube: Raven Simpsons episode.)

Write: Write a response in which you consider the effectiveness of the Simpson's interpretation of Poe's "The Raven." What did they do right? Where did they go wrong? How and why did this video help you understand the meaning of this poem?

Response must at least 8 sentences long. Be sure to cite specific examples from the video and the poem to support your argument.
Final Wrap-Up
"The Raven" Final Wrap-Up

Word Association
List three (3) words that you associate with INSANITY
1. __________________________  2. __________________________  3. __________________________

PREVIEW QUESTIONS:
What do you expect from a poem that rhymes?
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
Which is more powerful: grief or insanity? Explain your answer!
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________

Additional Interactive text website: http://www.teachersfirst.com/lessons/raven/start.cfm

What is the setting of "The Raven"?
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________

Poe wrote "The Raven" in ___________ narration. (POV)
What is the rhyme scheme? __________________________________________________________________

The narrator experiences a(n) __________ vs __________ conflict, which is an __________ conflict __________ a character.
The conflict is a battle between the narrator's desire to __________ and his desire to __________.

The legal definition of insanity is
________________________________________________________________________________________

Do you think the narrator is insane? EXPLAIN YOUR ANSWER! USE EVIDENCE!
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________

The narrator is __________ because he keeps expecting a __________ answer from a bird that can only say __________.

Why do you think Poe chose a raven?
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________

Where does the musical sound and rhythm of the poem come from?
Provide an example of alliteration FROM THE POEM.

Who is Lenore?

Poe created Lenore after ________________ whose name was ________________. She was ________________ while Poe was writing the poem, and she ________________ shortly after it was published.

What is the tone?

The poem progresses in feeling: ____________________________________

What is the significance of the raven perching on the goddess of wisdom's bust?

Which of the following gothic elements are in "The Raven"?

☐ Setting  ☐ Gothic Vocabulary  ☐ Feeling of Gloom & Doom
☐ Mystery/Suspense  ☐ Legend/Ancient Prophecy

High Emotions  ☐ Damsel in Distress  ☐ Inexplicable Events
☐ Omens, Portents, or Visions  ☐ Tyrannical Male Character

Write a short summary of the action in "The Raven."

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Creative Response:
Sketch an image of the raven