**Life and Works of Edgar Allan Poe**

**Study Guide**

**“The Raven” (handout)**

1. What is the setting in this poem? Describe the time and place.

2. What mood is set at the start of the poem, and how does Poe achieve this effect? Which elements or details in the setting add to the overall effect of the poem?

3. How would you describe the style of this poem (its word choice, meter, rhyme, etc.)?

4. What does the speaker at first realize about the bird when it says “Nevermore”?

5. How and WHEN can we tell that the speaker is beginning to lose his grasp on reality?

6. When the bird first arrived, how did the narrator feel about its visit?

How does he feel about the bird’s presence by the end of the poem?

7. What is the speaker’s emotional and mental condition by the end of the poem?

Has the bird actually done anything to cause this?

What did cause it?

8. Why do you suppose this was Poe’s most popular poem?

**Graphic Organizer for Active Reading “The Raven” by Edgar Allan Poe**



**Lines 1-36 Speaker’s feelings \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Sounds heard \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Speaker’s actions \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**In the appropriate locations below, summarize the action taking place in the beginning, middle, and end of the poem.**

**Lines 36-74 Bird’s actions \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Speaker’s feelings \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Speaker’s actions \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**



**Lines 75-125 Speaker’s actions \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Bird’s actions \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Speaker’s feelings \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**



Graphic Organizer for Active Reading **“The Raven” by Edgar Allan Poe**

**“The Fall of the House of Usher” (text p. 576)**

1. Where in the **beginning** of the story does the narrator mention that the whole thing is like a dream?

There are two instances. **Quote** them.

2. Why has the narrator come to visit Roderick?

3. How did Roderick get him to come?

4. In what ways do Rod and his house resemble each other? (Find specific parallels in the language used to describe the two.)

5. From what sort of symptoms does Rod suffer?

6. a. What factors does Rod say caused his illness?

b. What is said here about Rod’s relationship with his sister?

7. a. Describe what Rod is painting.

b. What part of the house (seen later in the story) does this painting resemble?

8. a. Summarize the **plot** of “The Haunted Palace.”

b. What real-world illness or problem does this poem **symbolize**?

9. What does the narrator tell us about Rod’s belief (or “opinion”) about inanimate objects?

10. What does the narrator notice about Madeline as they entomb her?

11. According to Rod, why is he doing this with her body?

12. What changes come over Rod after they entomb Madeline?

13. What is happening as the narrator is reading *The Mad Trist* to Rod?

14. What does Rod call the narrator just before Madeline enters?

15. How does Rod die? (Describe his physical position, that of Madeline, and what seems actually to kill him here.)

16. What happens to the house in the end? Describe the scene.

**“Alone” (handout)**

1. What are two ways in which the speaker differs from other people? (see lines 5-7 especially)

2. List the images (mental pictures) contained in lines 12-20.

3. Look at the last three lines of the poem. What is the speaker looking at?

What does he see here?

What do others, in contrast, see in the very same scene (their view is contained in parentheses)?

Given this, what can we say about the speaker’s view of life or the world?

4. How are lines 20-22 an example or illustration of the general concept or statement found in lines 2-3?

5. This poem has only recently been attributed to Poe, though he wrote it when he was about 20 years old. Explain why he might not have published “Alone” in his lifetime.

**“Annabel Lee” (handout)**

1. What is the setting (time, place) of the poem?

Does the poem take place in America? How do you know?

2. What happens to Annabel? How is her illness described?

Why do the angels do this? How did they feel about the relationship between the speaker and Annabel?

3. How are the angels in the poem portrayed?

Is this the usual way in which angels are viewed?

4. At the end of the poem, what does the speaker tell us he did each night?

5. What are two characteristics of the Romantic Movement that we can see in this poem?

6. What resemblance does the content of the poem bear to the relationship, personality, situation or life/death of the following real people in Poe’s life:

Poe’s mother, Eliza Arnold Poe—

Jane Stanard —

Frances Allan, Poe’s foster mother—

Virginia—