

# EDGAR ALLAN POE'S "THE RAVEN"

Choose 10 vocabulary words from this list to define:

quaint	lore	chamber
bleak	implore	token
obeisance	beguiling	decorum
countenance	discourse	relevancy
placid	dirges	melancholy
ominous	censer	nepenthe
tempest	undaunted	balm

Define the underlined word in each sentence below:

"'Tis some visitor entreating entrance at my chamber door..." \_\_\_\_\_

"with mien of lord or lady, perched above my chamber door..." \_\_\_\_\_

"oh quaff this kind nepenthe, and forget this lost Lenore!" \_\_\_\_\_

"Leave no black plume as a token of that lie thy soul hath spoken!" \_\_\_\_\_

"From my books surcease of sorrow - sorrow for the lost Lenore..." \_\_\_\_\_

## Poetic Elements

*Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered weak and weary,  
While I nodded, nearly napping, suddenly there came a tapping,*

In line (a) find the two words that are an example of internal rhyme and record them:

\_\_\_\_\_

In line (b) find the three words that are an example of alliteration and record them:

\_\_\_\_\_

*"And the silken sad uncertain rustling of each purple curtain..."* In this line find two words that are an example of assonance and record them:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Label each stanza with the following plot events: exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, or resolution.**

*Prophet!' said I, 'thing of evil! - prophet still, if bird or devil! -  
On the pallid bust of Pallas just above my chamber door;  
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.'*

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*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.'*

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*Presently my heart 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.*

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*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!'*

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*'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.'*

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What is the setting of "The Raven"? Include month and weather.

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Explain the conflict in "The Raven."

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In what ways does the author create “mood” in the opening stanza?

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Is there any indication that the narrator may have dreamt the entire episode?

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What is he hoping the Raven can tell him?

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Copy and identify one form of figurative language used in the poem:

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Throughout the poem, many words are repeated (ex: chamber, sorrow, Nevermore, Lenore). Why does Poe do this? What type of effect does it have on the reader?

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**Put the events in “The Raven” in order by writing the numbers 1-6 on the lines provided.**

The raven comes in and perches above the narrator’s door. \_\_\_\_\_

The narrator yells at the raven to leave. \_\_\_\_\_

The narrator whispers “Lenore” into the hallway. \_\_\_\_\_

The narrator questions whether the bird is natural or supernatural. \_\_\_\_\_

The narrator reads by the fire. \_\_\_\_\_

The narrator hears something at the window and opens it. \_\_\_\_\_

## Textual Analysis

*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 an instant 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.*

Explain what happens in the stanza above:

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What word does the raven always use to answer the narrator's questions? \_\_\_\_\_

## Additional notes:

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## Questions I have now that we've finished "The Raven."

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