

# Edgar Allan Poe

*January 19, 1809 - October 7, 1849*

# Biography - Early Years

- January 19, 1809 - Born in Boston to David Poe, Jr. and Elizabeth Arnold Poe
- Dec 8, 1811 - Poe was orphaned and taken in by Frances and Merchant John Allan and christened Edgar Allan Poe (in Richmond, Virginia)
- Stormy relations with his step-father caused him to leave at age 18, after leaving the University of Virginia
- Joined the Army and then Enrolled in West Point briefly

## Biography - Middle Years

- Moved to Baltimore with his Aunt Maria Clemm
- Although he was writing at this time and had published three slim volumes in 1827, 1829, 1831 he was poor.
- He worked mostly as an editor for magazines
- He dreamed of starting his own magazine showcasing poets of his choice

# Biography - Married Life

- 1836 - He married his cousin, Virginia Clemm
  - They were truly in love (story)
  - She was only 13 and he was 27
- Virginia died of tuberculosis 11 years after they married.
- After her death, Poe struggled with depression, drinking, and drugs
- He was found unresponsive in a Baltimore tavern and then died on October 7, 1849.

## Biography - His Darkest Days

- Virginia died of tuberculosis 11 years after they married.
- After her death, Poe struggled with depression, drinking, and drugs

“I became insane,  
With long intervals  
of horrible sanity.”

~Edgar Allan Poe

## Biography - The End of His Life

- Edgar Allan Poe was found unresponsive in a Baltimore tavern and then died on October 7, 1849.
- “Annabelle Lee” was published just two days later on October 9, 1849
- The poem is believed to be about his love for Virginia

## “Annabel Lee”

It was many and many a year ago,  
In a kingdom by the sea,  
That a maiden there lived whom you may know  
By the name of Annabel Lee;  
And this maiden she lived with no other thought  
Than to love and be loved by me.

## “Annabel Lee”

I was a child and she was a child,  
In this kingdom by the sea;  
But we loved with a love that was more than love-  
I and my Annabel Lee;  
With a love that the winged seraphs of heaven  
Coveted her and me.



## “Annabel Lee”

And this was the reason that, long ago,  
In this kingdom by the sea,  
A wind blew out of a cloud, chilling  
My beautiful Annabel Lee;  
So that her highborn kinsman came  
And bore her away from me,  
To shut her up in a sepulchre  
In this kingdom by the sea.

## “Annabel Lee”

The angels, not half so happy in heaven,  
Went envying her and me-  
Yes!- that was the reason (as all men know,  
In this kingdom by the sea)  
That the wind came out of the cloud by night,  
Chilling and killing my Annabel Lee.

## “Annabel Lee”

But our love it was stronger by far than the love  
Of those who were older than we-  
Of many far wiser than we-  
And neither the angels in heaven above,  
Nor the demons down under the sea,  
Can ever **dissever** my soul from the soul  
Of the beautiful Annabel Lee.

## “Annabel Lee”

For the moon never beams without bringing me dreams  
Of the beautiful Annabel Lee;  
And the stars never rise but I feel the bright eyes  
Of the beautiful Annabel Lee;  
And so, all the **night-tide**, I lie down by the side  
Of my darling- my darling- my life and my bride,  
In the **sepulchre** there by the sea,  
In her tomb by the sounding sea.

## “Annabel Lee” - Rhyme and Repetition

Throughout the poem, Poe repeats the sound of long "e." For example, in the first stanza, Line 2 ends with sea, Line 4 with Lee, and Line 6 with me. Stanzas 2 and 3 repeat the sea, Lee, me pattern, although Stanza 3 adds a second end-rhyming sea. Stanza 4 alters the pattern to me, sea, and Lee. Stanza 5 uses we, we, sea, and Lee; the last stanza uses Lee, Lee, sea, and sea. A notable example of internal rhyme occurs in the last line of Stanza 4: “Chilling and killing my Annabel Lee.”

# “Annabel Lee” - Rhythm and Repetition

The lines of the poem alternate in length between a long line (usually with 9 to 11 syllables) and a short line (usually with 6 to 8 syllables), as in the first stanza:

It was many and many a year ago, (11 syllables)

In a kingdom by the sea, (7 syllables)

That a maiden there lived whom you may know (10 syllables)

By the name of Annabel Lee (8 syllables)

And this maiden she lived with no other thought (11 syllables)

Than to love and be loved by me. (8 syllables)

The RAVEN

A black silhouette of a raven feather, positioned horizontally below the title. The feather is detailed with fine lines representing the barbs and the central rachis.

By: Edgar Allan Poe

# What is a Raven?

A raven, which can be up to two feet long, is a type of crow.

Ravens eat small animals, carrion (the decaying flesh of dead animals), fruit, and seeds.

They often appear in legend and literature as sinister omens.





# Vocabulary

<b>pondered</b>	think about (something) carefully, especially before making a decision or reaching a conclusion
<b>plume</b>	a long, soft feather or arrangement of feathers used by a bird for display or worn by a person for ornament
<b>implore</b>	beg someone earnestly or desperately to do something
<b>entreat</b>	ask someone earnestly or anxiously to do something
<b>ebony</b>	heavy blackish or very dark brown timber from a mainly tropical tree; black in color

# Literary Terms



# Setting

the place or type of surroundings where something is positioned or where an event takes place.

## Setting in “The Raven”

- “Midnight dreary” “bleak December” “dying ember”
- Dark, dreary, cold, December night, fire dying in fireplace in a bedroom or office

# Mood

A literary element that evokes certain feelings or vibes in readers through words and descriptions; the atmosphere of a literary piece, as it creates an emotional situation that surrounds the readers.

## Mood in “The Raven” through **word choice**

(sadness, hopelessness and despair)

- Weary, dreary, bleak, dying, sorrow, sad, darkness, stillness, mystery, ebony, grave, stern, lonely, grim, ghastly, and gaunt

# Point of View

the mode of narration that an author employs to let the readers "hear" and "see" what takes place in a story, poem, essay etc.

- First-person point of view: meaning it is told from the perspective of the main character
- He is depressed, lonely, and possibly mentally unstable as a result of his bereavement

# Internal Rhyme

a rhyme involving a word in the middle of a line and another at the end of the line or in the middle of the next.

Example in Stanza 4:

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

# Alliteration

the occurrence of the same letter or sound at the beginning of adjacent or closely connected words.

Example in Stanza 1:

“While I **nodded, nearly napping**”

# Onomatopoeia

the formation of a word from a sound associated with what is named (e.g., cuckoo, sizzle )

While I nodded, nearly napping, suddenly there came a **tapping**  
As of some one gently **rapping, rapping** at my chamber door  
And the silken sad uncertain **rustling** of each purple curtain  
Swung by Seraphim whose footfalls **tinkled** on the tufted floor  
Meant in **croaking** "Nevermore."



# Walk Thru the Poem



## Theme #1: Grief

The theme of the poem is the abject grief the narrator suffers after the death of his beloved. No matter how hard he tries, he cannot gain "surcease of sorrow . . . / For the rare and radiant maiden whom the angels name Lenore" (lines 10-11).

## Theme #2: Finality of Death

The narrator, heartsick at the loss of Lenore, finds it extremely difficult to accept her death. When he hears the tapping, he even calls out her name, perhaps thinking that her spirit has come to visit him. But the raven, repeating the word "Nevermore," reminds him that Lenore will not return. Death is final and irreversible.

## Theme #3: Mental Instability

So grief-stricken is the narrator with Lenore's death that he appears to become mentally unstable. The raven may be a hallucination--a manifestation of what he wishes to deny, the death of Lenore.

## Theme #4: Dream

There are many factors in the poem that support the idea that the events in "The Raven" were all just a dream.

## Who is Lenore?

It is possible that Lenore, the idealized deceased woman in the poem, represents Poe's beloved wife, Virginia, who was in poor health when Poe wrote "The Raven." She died two years after the publication of the poem, when she was only in her mid-twenties.