

Edgar Allan Poe

American Horror

Five Terrifying Tales

KEY TO THE ACTIVITIES AND EXIT TEST

About the Author

Page 6, activity 1

- 1 Modernist poetry, modern short stories, horror stories, science fiction, detective stories
- 2 They were actors.
- 3 Because he was an orphan.
- 4 Private schools in Richmond.
- 5 He was 18.
- 6 He was the editor.
- 7 He was looking for better-paying jobs.
- 8 His cousin.
- 9 It was a kind of treasure hunt with hidden clues.
- 10 "The Raven"

The Pit and the Pendulum

Page 8, activity 1

Open answers

Page 8, activity 2

A 5; B 2; C 4; D 6; E 3; F 1

Page 9, activity 3

1 A; 2 C; 3 C; 4 B; 5 B; 6 B

PART ONE

Page 16, activity 1

1 E; 2 D; 3 H; 4 I; 5 C; 6 F; 7 A

Page 16, activity 2

D

Page 17, activity 3

1 assistants; 2 confessions;
 3 unimportant; 4 religious; 5 recently;
 6 completely; 7 particularly; 8 Later;
 9 fictional; 10 suffering

Page 18, activity 1

Open answers

Page 18, activity 2

1 C; 2 C; 3 B; 4 A; 5 A

PART TWO

Page 24, activity 1

1 False — It took a great deal of effort; 2 False — He pushed himself up because he wanted to die and end the torture; 3 True; 4 False — He thought about it for a moment before he realized how ridiculous the idea was; 5 True; 6 True; 7 True; 8 False — He knew they were just images on the walls made more evident by the heat; 9 False — He considered this option for a brief moment; 10 True

Page 24, activity 2

C

Page 25, activity 3

Sample answer

I worked in a large restaurant in the center of New York City. My boss trusted me, so he often had me lock the restaurant. One summer, just before the restaurant closed for two weeks for the summer break, I was the last person there. I was thrilled. Two weeks of vacation! I turned off the lights and walked out. Then I locked the door. Just then I remembered that I had left a piece of brie cheese in the walk-in fridge. I opened the door and ran to the fridge. I opened the door — just then I remembered that the door was broken and it was dangerous to go in the fridge, but I was very happy and said to myself, 'Calm down! Get your cheese and go!' I walked into the fridge and there in the back was my brie. But as soon as I had picked it up, the door shut by itself. I sat down and began to cry. Then I heard the "Marseillaise",

the French national anthem. "It's the cold... I am hallucinating..." I thought. But that wasn't it at all. It was the ring tone of my cell phone! I had it in my bag! I was saved.

Page 25, activity 4

8; 9; 10; 3; 7; 6; 4; 1; 5; 2

Poe's scientific imagination

Page 30, activity 1

- 1 A virtual world created by computers and a world dominated by these same thinking computers.
- 2 Space travel
- 3 Antoine Lavoisier
- 4 Isaac Newton
- 5 Electricity
- 6 He wants to show how the scientific discoveries of his day were just as incredible and exciting as the tales of imagination contained in the original collection of Oriental tales The Thousand and One Nights.
- 7 Radios

The Facts in the Case of M. Valdemar

Page 32, activity 1

Open answers

Page 33, activity 2

1 B; 2 B; 3 B; 4 A; 5 B; 6 A



PART ONE**Page 38, activity 1**

- 1 He wished to correct the inaccurate version of his experiment which had reached the public.
- 2 First, whether he could mesmerize a dying person. Second, whether the dying person's condition made it easier or more difficult to mesmerize. Third, whether death could be stopped or delayed.
- 3 He had already been easily mesmerized. He knew fairly precisely when he was going to die. He was completely comfortable with the idea of dying.
- 4 A medical student.
- 5 He was an outside — objective — observer. He also took notes which the author later used to write up his account of the experiment.
- 6 Mentally he was still very alert, but physically he was in bad shape.
- 7 Nothing happened.
- 8 Seven months.

Page 38, activity 2

- 3 The first version of the case of M. Valdemar to appear in newspapers was very confused because the facts did not come directly from the people involved. If the facts had come directly from the people involved, the first version of the case of M. Valdemar to appear in the newspapers would not have been so confused.
- 4 The narrator did not feel embarrassed about asking M. Valdemar to participate in his experiment because M. Valdemar saw death as a perfectly natural

subject. If M. Valdemar hadn't seen death as a perfectly natural subject, the narrator would have felt embarrassed about asking him to participate in his experiment.

- 5 The narrator was able to mesmerize M. Valdemar when he was about to die because M. Valdemar knew fairly precisely the time of his death. If M. Valdemar had not known precisely the time of his time, then the narrator would not have been able to mesmerize him when he was able to die.
- 6 The narrator was able to write a complete description of his experiment because a medical student took notes. If a medical student hadn't taken notes, the narrator wouldn't have been able to write a complete description of his experiment.
- 7 The doctors made a good estimate of when he would die because they knew the exact condition of his lungs. If the doctors had not known the exact condition of his lungs, they would not have made a good estimate/such a good estimate of when he would die.

Page 39, activity 3

1 D; 2 A; 3 D; 4 B; 5 B; 6 B; 7 A; 8 D; 9 C; 10 D

Page 39, activity 1

A 4; B 3; C 1; D 2

Page 39, activity 2

1 A few minutes after ten; 2 A few minutes before eleven; 3 A mirror; 4 Are you asleep?; 5 Yes, do not wake me.

PART TWO**Page 46, activity 1**

1 D; 2 D; 3 A; 4 C; 5 D

Page 47, activity 2

1 best; 2 that; 3 There; 4 could; 5 than; 6 had; 7 who; 8 which; 9 another; 10 by

The Black Cat

Page 50, activity 1

Open answers

Page 50, activity 2

A 3 B 4 C 1 D 2

Page 50, activity 3

1 supernatural; 2 animals; 3 cat; 4 witch; 5 drank; 6 afraid; 7 horror

PART ONE**Page 56, activity 1**

1 H; 2 D; 3 A; 4 E; 5 C; 6 J; 7 B

Page 56, activity 2

1 superior; 2 animals; 3 black cat; 4 calm, noble; 5 the kitchen; 6 open; 7 great difficulty; 8 instinct and human reason

Page 57, activity 3

Open answers

Page 57, activity 4

Open answers

Page 58, activity 1

A 4 B 3 C 2 D 1

Page 58, activity 2

Open answers

Page 58, activity 3

1 T; 2 T; 3 T; 4 F; 5 T; 6 F

PART TWO**Page 63, activity 1**

- 1 It was something that was not exactly real — the white spot on the cat that seemed to change into the shape of the gallows.
- 2 It always stayed with him.
- 3 She tried to stop him from killing the cat with an axe.
- 4 How to get rid of the body.
- 5 He put it inside the wall of the cellar.
- 6 Find the cat.
- 7 The cat had not returned.
- 8 He wanted to show them that he was not guilty.
- 9 He hit the wall with his cane.
- 10 Inside the wall with his dead wife.
- 11 He killed Pluto, and then he showed the police his was guilty when he could have just shut up.

Page 63, activity 2

Open answers

Page 64, activity 3

- 3 Even though many parts of the story seem supernatural, he thinks a normal person can find a logical explanation. He thinks a normal person can find a logical explanation, but many parts of the story seem supernatural.

- 4 Even though the narrator loved animals, he hurt Pluto. He loved animals, but he still hurt Pluto.
- 5 Even though the narrator could think of a natural explanation for the bas-relief, it still frightened him. The narrator could think of a natural explanation for the bas-relief, but it still frightened him.
- 6 Even though the new cat was very friendly, it disgusted the narrator. The new cat was very friendly, but it still disgusted the narrator.

Page 66, activity 4

1 G 3 4
 2 R A B B I T S
 5 M L L E
 U L U A
 6 F U R I O U S R
 D W 7 H I S
 8 P E T S
 R 10 11
 9 C E L L A R
 D O U
 12 U I
 12 P A R D O N
 U 14 E S
 13 T E R R O R
 R U
 15 G E N T L E
 D

- 7 Even though he saw that the white area now looked like the gallows, he tried to ignore it. He saw that the white area now looked like the gallows, but he tried to ignore it.
- 8 Even though the narrator hid his wife’s corpse very well, the police found it easily in the end. The narrator hid his wife’s corpses very well, but the police found it easily in the end.

Poe as a pop icon

Page 70, activity 1

1 True; 2 True; 3 False — The first Poe film appeared in 1910. 4 False — He has been inspired by the director Roger Corman’s films based on Poe’s stories. 5 True; 6 True; 7 False — He wanted his stories to be both good and popular. 8 False — This is the legend that has grown up around him, not the truth. 9 True; 10 True

The Oval Portrait

Page 72, activity 1

A 3; B 4; C 6; D 5; E 8; F 1; G 9; H 7; I 2

Page 73, activity 2

1 C; 2 A; 3 B; 4 A; 5 C

Page 78, activity 1

1 False — He was injured; 2 True; 3 False — The book was about the paintings in the room; 4 True; 5 False — She attracted his attention

because she seemed so lifelike; 6 False — He was already; “married”, but to his art; 7 True; 8 False — She wanted to please her husband and did exactly as he said; 9 False — He wanted it to be as lifelike as possible; 10 True; 11 False — Everybody who saw it realized its magical living quality; 12 False — She died just as he added the last brushstroke.

Page 78, activity 2

Sample answer
The day of my marriage was wonderful. I was so happy. Finally, my life as a grown woman was about to begin. Then one day, my husband asked me to pose for him. At first I was greatly honored. I knew what his painting meant to him — it was everything. Yes, sadly, it was everything and I was nothing. This I realized when I saw the damp and sad room where he wanted me to pose. Could a healthy, happy young woman remain there without gradually dying? But I didn’t say anything — this at first was because I loved him so. But as I felt my body grow cold and damp, I grew scared. Scared of his passion for art — the way he looked at me without seeing me. And so I saw my own life appear slowly on his canvas as it left my body. Then, silent and afraid, I died.

Page 79, activity 3

Open answers

Page 80, activity 4

1 H; 2 G; 3 A; 4 D; 5 F; 6 E; 7 C

Page 81, activity 5

Open answers

The Tell-Tale Heart

Page 84, activity 1

Open answers

Page 84, activity 2

A 2; B 3; C 4; D 1

Page 84, activity 3

1 True; 2 True; 3 True; 4 True; 5 False; 6 False; 7 False

PART ONE

Page 90, activity 1

1 B; 2 D; 3 A; 4 A; 5 B; 6 C; 7 A

Page 91, activity 2

Open answers

Page 92, activity 3

1 thought about it day; 2 continued to push; 3 were not destroyed by; 4 because I did not want; 5 was still; 6 was just imagining; 7 Did you sleep.

Page 93, activity 4

Open answers

Page 94, activity 1

A 3 B 1 C 2

Page 95, activity 2

1 C; 2 A; 3 C; 4 B; 5 C

Page 100, activity 1

A 8; B 6; C 2; D 1; E 7; F 10; G 5; H 4

Page 100, activity 2

Open answers

Page 101, activity 3

A 5; B 2; C 1; D 4; E 3; F 6

Page 102, activity 4

Open answers

Poe's America**Page 107, activity 1**

1 False — It was a new country. 2 True; 3 False — It was the belief that white Americans should take control of the whole North American continent. 4 True; 5 False — This was a period of great economical growth; 6 True; 7 True; 8 False — Many were born in the early 1800s. 9 False — Poe often wrote about the dark side. 10 True

After reading**Page 108, activity 1**

1 C1; 2 E1; 3 B1; 4 E2; 5 D2; 6 A2; 7 B2; 8 A1; 9 C2

Page 109, activity 2

1 OP; 2 TTH; 3 MV; 4 PP; 5 PP; 6 OP; 7 TTH; 8 BC; 9 MV; 10 TTH; 11 MV; 12 PP; 13 BC; 14 TTH; 15 BC; 16 MV; 17 BC; 18 PP

Page 110, activity 3

A 12; B 11; C 9; D 4; E 5; F 1; G 10; H 3; I 2; J 14

1**The Pit and the Pendulum**

- 1 F: he was sentenced by a court of the Spanish Inquisition.
- 2 T
- 3 F: large rats crawled over his body.
- 4 F: it came down very slowly.

The Facts of the Case of M. Valdemar

- 1 T
- 2 F: he wanted to see if a person who was about to die (in articulo mortis) could be mesmerized.
- 3 F: he was still mesmerized.
- 4 T

The Black Cat

- 1 F: he loved animals and was kind to them.
- 2 F: he felt terrible about it the next day.
- 3 T
- 4 T

The Oval Portrait

- 1 T
- 2 F: she became ill in the unhealthy room of the turret of the castle.
- 3 T
- 4 T

The Tell-Tale Heart

- 1 T
- 2 F: he believed that a madman could not do what he did.
- 3 T
- 4 F: the neighbor had heard a scream.

2**The Pit and the Pendulum**

- 1 The idea that he was buried alive.
- 2 A deep circular pit.
- 3 He rubbed meat on it and the rats then ate it.
- 4 A French general.

The Facts of the Case of M. Valdemar

- 1 He knew when M. Valdemar was going to die; M. Valdemar had no relatives in America; and M. Valdemar was interested in this sort of scientific research.
- 2 His lungs.
- 3 His eyes moved back; his jaw fell; his tongue became black.
- 4 He talked.

The Black Cat

- 1 A witch in disguise.
- 2 He began to drink too much.
- 3 It began to look like an image of the gallows.
- 4 Because she tried to stop him from killing the black cat.

The Oval Portrait

- 1 In the Apennine Mountains in Italy.
- 2 It told the story of the paintings in the room.
- 3 Because it took her husband away from her.
- 4 She died.

The Tell-Tale Heart

- 1 He hated the old man's pale blue eye with a film over it.
- 2 He was afraid that the beating of the old man's heart would wake up the neighbors.
- 3 He cut it into pieces and put it under the floorboards.
- 4 Because he thought they were laughing and smiling at him, and he could not take it anymore.

1 Say whether the following are true (T) or false (F), and then correct the false ones.

The Pit and the Pendulum

- | | T | F |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 The narrator was condemned by a French Revolutionary court. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 The narrator suffered more from the psychological torture than from the physical torture. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Large slimy insects came and walked over the narrator's body. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 The pendulum descended extremely quickly. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

The Facts of the Case of M. Valdemar

- | | T | F |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 The narrator was an expert on Mesmerism. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 The narrator wanted to see if a person who had just died could be mesmerized. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 M. Valdemar woke up when he started dying. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 Mesmerism kept M. Valdemar from dying completely. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

The Black Cat

- | | T | F |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 The narrator loved hurting animals when he was a child. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 The narrator did not feel sorry for having cut out Pluto's eye. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 The Spirit of the Perverse tells us to do things that we know we should not do. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 The narrator did not realize that he had buried the black cat along with his wife's body. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

The Oval Portrait

- | | T | F |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 The narrator was not well when he went into the castle. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 The girl was already quite ill when she started to pose. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 The girl never told her husband that she was suffering. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 Everybody loved the painting. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

The Tell-Tale Heart

- | | T | F |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 The narrator became nervous because he had been physically ill. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 The narrator knew that he had a mental problem of some sort. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 The narrator used a mattress to kill the old man. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 The police came because a neighbor had heard the beating of the old man's heart. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2 Answer the following questions.

The Pit and the Pendulum

- 1 What terrified the narrator the most when he first woke up in the dark?
- 2 What did the narrator discover in the center of the dungeon?
- 3 How did the narrator break the leather strap?
- 4 Who saved the narrator?

The Facts of the Case of M. Valdemar

- 1 What were some of the reasons why the narrator thought that M. Valdemar would be a good subject for his experiment?
- 2 What part of M. Valdemar's body was affected by his disease?
- 3 What signs of death did M Valdemar show when he was Mesmerized?
- 4 What was the last sign of life that M. Valdemar showed?

The Black Cat

- 1 What did the narrator's wife say that the black cat really was?
- 2 Why did the narrator's personality change so drastically?
- 3 What happened to the white area on the black cat's breast?
- 4 Why did the narrator kill his wife?

The Oval Portrait

- 1 Where was the old castle?
- 2 What was book that the narrator found about?
- 3 Why did the girl hate Art?
- 4 What happened to the artist's wife when he finished the painting?

The Tell-Tale Heart

- 1 Why did the narrator decide to kill the old man?
- 2 Why did the narrator finally decide to attack and kill the old man?
- 3 How did he hide the old man's body?
- 4 Why did the narrator finally tell the police where he had hidden the body?