Edgar Allan Poe’s

“The Raven”

**[www.teachersfirst.com/lesson/raven/](http://www.teachersfirst.com/lesson/raven/)**

**Exercise I. Vocabulary**: First, using your copy of “The Raven**,” find and circle** all of the words listed below in the poem. Then, using the *Interactive Raven* website, list a synonym or a short definition for each word listed below.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Word | Synonym | Word | Synonym |
| 1. lore
 | 1.  | 13. countenance | 13. |
| 1. bleak
 | 2.  | 14. crest | 14. |
| 1. quaint
 | 3. | 15. discourse | 15. |
| 1. surcease
 | 4. | 16. relevancy | 16. |
| 1. wrought
 | 5. | 17. aptly | 17. |
| 1. entreating
 | 6. | 18. dirges | 18. |
| 1. implore
 | 7. | 19. melancholy | 19. |
| 1. lattice
 | 8. | 20. censer | 20. |
| 1. stately
 | 9. | 21. nepenthe | 21. |
| 1. obeisance
 | 10. | 22. quaff | 22. |
| 1. mien
 | 11. | 23. desolate | 23. |
| 1. beguiling
 | 12. | 24. undaunted | 24. |

**Exercise II. Poetic Elements:** Read the following lines from “The Raven” and complete the directions given below.

1. ***Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered weak and weary,***
2. ***While I nodded, nearly napping, suddenly there came a tapping,***
3. In line (a), find the two words that are an example of internal rhyme and record them:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. ***“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: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Exercise III. Understanding the Poem:** Read and answer the following questions about the poem, “The Raven.”

1. What is the setting of “The Raven”? (Include month, time of day, and weather.)

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1. Explain the conflict in “The Raven.”

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1. How does the author create “mood” in the opening stanzas of the poem?

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

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1. What is he hoping the Raven can tell him? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Find an example of **figurative language** in the poem. **Record it and its line number** below and explain why it is figurative language. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. What connections can the reader make between the poem and Poe’s real life. Be sure to use specific examples from the poem and from Poe’s life to support your answer.

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1. Throughout the poem, many words are repeated. On the lines below, list at least **two** examples of words that are repeated (**include the line numbers of where you found them**). Why does Poe do this? What type of effect does it have on the reader? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

* 1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ The raven comes in and perches above the narrator’s door.
	2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ The narrator yells at the raven to leave.
	3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ The narrator whispers “Lenore” into the hallway.
	4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ The narrator questions whether the bird is natural or supernatural.
	5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ The narrator reads by the fire.
	6. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ The narrator hears something at the window and opens it.

**Exercise V. Textual Analysis**: Read the following stanza from “The Raven” and explain what happens in your own words. Break your interpretation down line by line.

***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 changer door-***

***Perched upon a bust of Pallas just above my chamber door-***

***Perched and sat and nothing more.***

Line 1: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Line 2: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Line 3: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Line 4: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Line 5: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Line 6: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_