

## Objective

By the end of this lesson, you will be able to analyze and understand the themes, symbols, and literary devices used in Edgar Allan Poe's poem, "The Raven".

## Materials and Prep

- A copy of the poem "The Raven" by Edgar Allan Poe
- A notebook or paper to take notes
- A pen or pencil

## Activities

1. Read the poem aloud: Start by reading "The Raven" out loud. Pay attention to the rhythm and the rhymes. Notice how the words flow and how they create a haunting atmosphere.
2. Identify the themes: Discuss with your teacher or write down the main themes you notice in the poem. For example, loneliness, grief, and the passage of time are common themes in "The Raven".
3. Analyze the symbols: Look for symbols in the poem and try to understand their meaning. For instance, the raven itself can be seen as a symbol of death or a messenger from the afterlife. Take notes on the symbols you find and what you think they represent.
4. Explore literary devices: Identify and examine the literary devices used by Poe in the poem, such as alliteration, repetition, and imagery. Find examples of these devices in the text and discuss how they contribute to the overall effect of the poem.
5. Write a response: After analyzing the poem, write a personal response to "The Raven". This can be a reflection on the themes, symbols, or how the poem made you feel. Use evidence from the text to support your thoughts and interpretations.

## Talking Points

- "The Raven" is a famous poem written by Edgar Allan Poe in 1845. It tells the story of a man who is visited by a talking raven, which brings him sorrow and despair.
- Poe uses vivid imagery and descriptive language to create a dark and eerie atmosphere throughout the poem. This helps to enhance the feelings of loneliness and grief experienced by the narrator.
- The repetition of the word "nevermore" by the raven is one of the most memorable aspects of

the poem. It adds to the sense of despair and the idea that the narrator's grief will never end.

- The raven itself can be seen as a symbol of death or a messenger from the afterlife. Its presence in the poem adds to the overall sense of mystery and melancholy.
- Poe's use of alliteration, such as "Doubting, dreaming dreams no mortal ever dared to dream before," adds to the musicality of the poem and helps to create a sense of rhythm and flow.
- Remember to take notes as you read and analyze the poem. This will help you remember important details and ideas for your response.