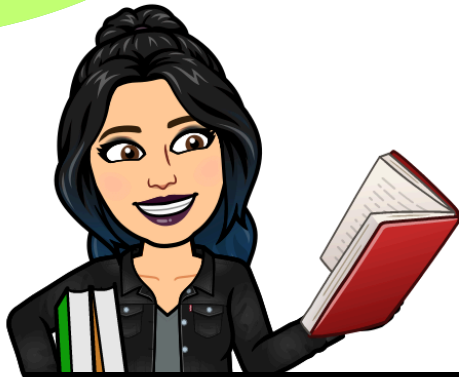
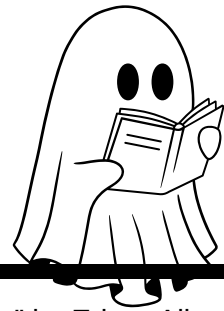


Homework - 10/27

Advanced Eng. A

Ms. Martocello



Recap Today's class began reading "The Raven" by Edgar Allen Poe.

POEM CAN BE FOUND HERE: [CLICK HERE](#)

POEM READ ALOUD: [CLICK HERE](#)

HW PACKET CAN BE FOUND HERE: [CLICK HERE](#)

*Please *Make a copy* of the packet before you try to type in it!*

Who is Edgar Allen Poe? (1809–49). Edgar Allan Poe is considered one of America's greatest writers. He is said to have invented the modern detective story. His works are full of suspense, as his most famous poem, The Raven (1845), shows. He was a very successful writer, yet in his personal life he struggled greatly.

Opening Lines and Setting the Scene

"Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary,
Over many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore—"

The poem begins with the speaker (the narrator) sitting alone late at night, feeling tired and sad. He is reading old books, maybe to distract himself from his sadness. The words "midnight dreary" and "weak and weary" set a dark, gloomy mood.

A Mysterious Tapping

As he's about to fall asleep, the speaker hears a light tapping at his door. He thinks it's just a visitor knocking, but he still feels uneasy. The words "nothing more" hint that the speaker is trying to convince himself it's no big deal, but he's clearly nervous.

Memory of December and Lost Lenore

The speaker remembers that it's December, a cold and bleak month, which matches his sad, lonely feelings. As he watches the fireplace embers die, he is reminded of his sadness over losing someone named Lenore, who he describes as "rare and radiant." Lenore is no longer alive, and he misses her deeply. His reading is an attempt to escape his sorrow, but it's not helping.

The Strange Feelings and Fear

The soft sound of his curtains moving fills the speaker with fear. The room's stillness and the sound seem mysterious and make him more uneasy. This builds suspense, as he's both curious and nervous about what might be causing the noises.

A Visitor at the Door?

The speaker repeats to himself that it's just a visitor. He's clearly trying to calm himself down, but the strange feeling that something unusual is happening doesn't go away. His fear is growing, even as he tries to explain it away.

The Raven Appears

When he opens the window, a raven (a large, black bird) flies into the room and perches above the door. The bird is calm and dignified, almost like it has an important purpose. The raven chooses to sit on a statue of Pallas, the Greek goddess of wisdom, which could mean that it brings knowledge or wisdom—possibly dark or mysterious wisdom.

Symbolism and Themes So Far

- **Raven:** The raven is a symbol of mystery and possibly bad luck. In literature, ravens are often associated with death or omens. Here, it might represent the speaker's grief and inability to let go of his sadness over Lenore.
- **"Nevermore":** The raven's repeated word "Nevermore" suggests the idea that the speaker will never see Lenore again. It symbolizes a final, unchangeable fate.
- **Darkness and Loneliness:** The setting is dark and gloomy, mirroring the speaker's feelings of loss and despair. He is alone, speaking to a bird that can't truly answer his questions.
- **The poem's tone is eerie and melancholic,** fitting the theme of unending sorrow and the feeling of being haunted by loss.

Homework:

Complete sections 1-3 in the packet [linked here](#).

You may complete the packet via google docs and share with Ms. Martocello or print it out, fill out and bring it to class.

*Please *Make a copy* of the packet before you try to type in it!*

FAQ

Email:

Martocello@schoolnova.org