

English Essay by: Chase Cole Period 2 Ms. Moran

In the short story “The Tell Tale Heart” by Edgar Allan Poe, the narrator creeps in the doorway every night for a week and looks into the “vulture” eye of an old man. After many nights he finally decides to complete his mission and lurks into the room and suffocates the man. Once this is done he hides the body in the floorboards, when suddenly he starts hearing an ominous thumping sound coming from the floor. He immediately associates the thumping with the heart. But how could it be the old man is dead so where would the thumping come from? As the thumping grows louder he hears a knock at the door and discovers the police are right outside. As he pretends to be the housekeeper, the thumping becomes unbearable and he tears apart the floorboards and reveals he killed the man. Now after reviewing this story, this narrator can be seen as crazy and untrustworthy.

This narrator can hear the heartbeat of a dead person. This shows that nothing he says can be trusted. Edgar Allan Poe implies that the man is so consumed by guilt that he begins to hear noises that are only fabricated by his imagination. This clearly indicates that he is not a genuine person in the story, as he is not in the right frame of mind at the moment, in fact he just killed someone. This individual thinks he can somehow hear the pulse of a dead person, but really he is going crazy and the police must have noticed as well, so they stuck around.

The author implies that the man is so expended by blame that he starts to act weirdly from the fabricated noises coming from his unhealthy mind. This clearly demonstrates that he isn't genuine as he is not a reliable narrator at the moment and even readers grow suspicious of him. When reading a story like this in the future watch out for fake and untrustworthy characters like this.