

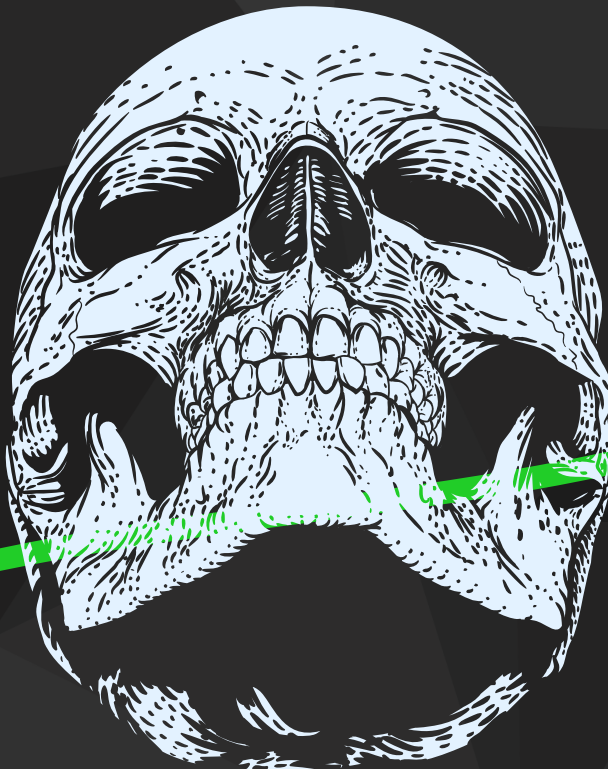


Escuela Superior
de Tizayuca



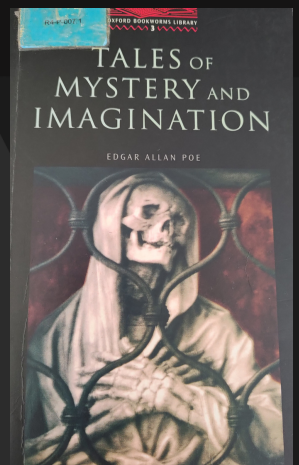
Tales of mystery and imagination

EDGAR ALLAN POE



BOOK

ACTIVITY



TIZAYUCA, DICIEMBRE 2022



Exercises



BEFORE READING

1 Read the back cover and the introduction on the first page of the book. Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

1 These stories are about real people and real places.

2 These stories are about strange things that happen in the mind.

3 After Lady Madeleine's death, her brother feels sad but peaceful.

4 The people at Prince Prospero's ball are having fun, not thinking about death.

5 These stories are good to read when you are feeling ill, unhappy or frightened.

2 Here are the titles of the five stories. Which of the five things below belongs to each story? Can you guess?

an axel a blue eye / a strange book / a large black clock / a game of cards

The Fall of the House of Usher_____

The Black Cat_____

The Masque of the Red Death William Wilson_____

The Tell-Tale Heart_____



Exercises



WHILE READING

Read *The Fall of the House of Usher*. Choose the best question-word for these questions, and then answer them.

Who/Where/What/ Why

- 1 . . . did Roderick Usher write to the narrator?
- 2 . . . was becoming weaker and thinner each day?
- 3 . . . did they put the Lady Madeleine's coffin?
- 4 . . . did the narrator walk around the room during the storm?
- 5 . . . did the narrator do to make Usher calmer?
- 6 . . . did Usher realize from the sounds that he had heard?
- 7 . . . stood outside the door of the narrator's room?
- 8 . . . happened to the House of Usher?

Read *The Black Cat*. Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)? Rewrite the false ones with the correct information.

- 1 The narrator liked animals more than people.
- 2 Pluto the dog was the narrator's favourite animal.
- 3 When Pluto bit the narrator, he cut one of its legs off.
- 4 The shape of a cat appeared on the bedroom wall.
- 5 The new cat looked the same as Pluto in every way.
- 6 The narrator killed his wife with an axe.
7. After he killed his wife, the narrator slept badly.
- 8 The police found the living woman and the dead cat together behind the wall.



Exercises



WHILE READING

Read *The Masque of the Red Death*. Then answer these questions.

- 1 Who was not afraid of the Red Death?
- 2 Who did Prince Prospero invite to his castle?
- 3 Why could nobody enter or escape from the castle?
- 4 What were the colours of the seven rooms in the castle?
- 5 What was against the wall in the last room?
- 6 What did people notice while the clock was chiming midnight?
- 7 What was the stranger wearing?
- 8 How did the Prince feel when he saw the stranger?
- 9 Why didn't anyone want to touch the stranger?
- 10 What happened when the stranger turned and looked at the Prince?
- 11 What was inside the stranger's clothes and mask?
- 12 What was left in the castle when the clock stopped chiming?

Read *William Wilson*. Then match these halves of sentences to make a paragraph of seven sentences.

- 1 The narrator had to leave Oxford for Europe . . .
- 2 But in every city that he visited . . .
- 3 When he had evil plans, . . .
- 4 At first the narrator obeyed Wilson's orders, . . .
- 5 This made him feel brave and strong . . .
- 6 At last, at a party in Rome, the narrator took his sword . . .
- 7 But when he looked at his enemy's face, . . .



Exercises



WHILE READING

- 8 the other Wilson stopped them.
- 9 because everyone knew that he was a cheat at cards.
- 10 he saw that it was the same as his own.
- 11 and he thought that he could break away from his enemy.
- 12 the other William Wilson appeared.
- 13 and killed the other man.
- 14 but then he began drinking heavily.

Read *The Tell-Tale Heart*. Here are some untrue sentences about it. Change them into true sentences.

- 1 Because of his disease the narrator had terrible hearing.
- 2 The old man had once hurt the narrator in some way.
- 3 The narrator decided to kill the old man because of his gold.
- 4 The narrator took thirty minutes to put his head inside the old man's room.
- 5 The old man could see and hear the narrator in his room.
- 6 The narrator felt sorry when he saw the old man's eye.
- 7 The narrator pulled a heavy table on top of the old man.
8. He hid the old man's dead body behind the wall.
- 9 The policemen came to the house because a neighbour had seen a strange man there.
- 10 The narrator told the police that the old man was away in hospital.
- 11 When the narrator spoke more loudly, the noise in the room became quieter.
- 12 The noise in the room was the old man's watch.



Exercises



AFTER READING

1 Imagine that the narrator in *The Fall of the House of Usher* wrote to his wife during his visit. Use the linking words below to complete his letter.

although / and / but / but / since / so/when/ which / who

Dear Sarah

I have been here for a week now. Usher was pleased to see me, _____ he has changed so much since our last meeting. He has a strange disease, _____ makes him very thin, pale and nervous. I arrived, we have spent a lot of time together. I try to help him, _____ his sadness is too deep, _____ sometimes I am frightened by his fantastic ideas.

Two days ago Usher's sister Madeleine died, _____ I must stay here a little longer. _____ I hate this house of gloom and madness, I must help my friend, _____ needs me very much. _____ he feels stronger, I will leave this terrible place for ever.

With love, Nathaniel

2 The policemen who found the black cat wrote a report about their visit to the house. Put these sentences in order, joining the parts where necessary, in order to make their report.

1 He knocked on one of the cellar walls with his stick, . . .

2 the owner took us down to the cellar.

3 and on top of her head there was a black cat with one eye.



Exercises



AFTER READING

4 so we got ready to leave.

5 On the 7th July we went to 51 Baker Street.

6 The cat was making the terrible sound that we had heard.

7 and suddenly we heard a sound from behind the wall.

8 Soon we found the dead body of a woman, . . .

9 After we had searched the rooms upstairs, . . .

10 We found nothing unusual there . . .

11 but then it became a loud and terrible scream.

12 Then the owner began to tell us how well built the house was.

13 We began to pull the wall down.

14 At first it was a soft cry,...

3 Imagine that Prince Prospero, in *The Masque of the Red Death*, speaks to the stranger just before he dies. Complete their conversation. (Use as many words as you like.)

PRINCE: _____?

STRANGER: You know who I am.

PRINCE: How _____? The gates _____.

STRANGER: I do not need a key to pass through a locked gate.

PRINCE: _____at once! Or I _____.

STRANGER: I will not leave. And your sword cannot hurt me.

PRINCE: But what _____?

STRANGER: I have many names, but tonight I am called the Red Death.

PRINCE: Why _____?

STRANGER: Because, Prince Prospero, it is time for you to die.



Exercises



AFTER READING

4 Who, or what, was the other William Wilson? Which of these answers do you think is the best explanation?

- 1 a real person - who happens to look just like the narrator
2. a different part of the narrator's own mind
- 3 somebody that the narrator imagines, in a waking dream
- 4 the good side of the narrator's character
- 5 a kind of ghost

5 Here are four passages from Wilson's diary. Complete them with the words below (use each word once), and then say who wrote each passage - the 'good' or the 'bad' Wilson.

cards, caught, cheat, cheating, clever, destroy, enough, evil, gambler, make, mine, pleasure, secret, should, sleeve, stop, stupid, thief, where, wife

1 I no longer play cards. I am known to be a _____ which is no better than a _____. Once, when I tried to win a lot of _____ money by _____ I was _____ and told to leave Oxford at once. But the _____ man that I tried to _____ was saved.

2 At Oxford I was a clever and successful _____. It was an easy way to _____ money. I used special _____ which I hid inside my _____. I only played with _____ people, but sadly, one day I was caught, and so had to leave England.

3 Tonight the Duke Di Broglio's _____ has agreed to meet me in a room _____ we can be alone. She is young, beautiful, and not very _____ - and tonight she will be _____ ! I shall fight anybody who tries to _____ me.



Exercises



AFTER READING

4 I spend my life searching for _____. Tonight I have planned meeting a _____ with the Duke's wife. She is beautiful, but not clever _____ to recognize an _____ man when she sees one. one. Somebody _____ warn her about me.

6 In The Tell-Tale Heart a neighbour talks to the police (see page 53). Put their conversation in the correct order and write in the speakers' names. The policeman speaks first (number 7).

1 _____ 'This old man- do you know him?'

2 _____ 'Well, there was a terrible noise tonight from the house next door - like a great shout or a scream.'

3 _____ 'Strange? In what way?'

4 _____ 'Hmm. I think I should go next door and ask a few questions. Thank you for telling us about this.'

5 _____ 'I'm not sure about two o'clock perhaps.'

6 _____ 'I went to the window and looked out. I didn't see anyone, but there was a light in the old man's room.'

7 _____ 'Now, sir, what's the problem?'

8 _____ 'So what did you do then?'

9 _____ 'He talks to himself - and he has really wild eyes.'

10 _____ 'Oh yes - he's a very nice man. A younger man lives in the house too - but he's a bit strange.'

11 _____ 'No, just one. But after that there was a loud bang- like something heavy falling to the floor.'

12 _____ 'Two o'clock. I see. And were there any more screams?'

13 _____ 'What time did you hear this scream?'



Exercises



AFTER READING

7 Perhaps this is what some of the characters in the stories were thinking. Which five characters are they (one from each story), and what is happening in the story at this moment?

1 Oh my God! Who is that? He looks really terrible. And all that blood! I don't think that's very funny. How can we enjoy ourselves with that in front of us? And how did he get in? Somebody will have to tell the Prince . . .

2 What's happening? Something woke me up. I can't see anything, but I know there's something there. I'm so afraid. I'm listening and listening - it's dark and quiet, but I can feel something terrible, something frightening. . .

3 Now the wall is finished, he thinks he's safe - but he's wrong. He didn't see me climb in here with the body. I'll just sit here and wait until somebody comes - and then I'll open my mouth and scream . . .

4 Soon it will end. On this wild night I will at last be free- free to search for my brother, and take him with me. One more push, and this wood will break. Then the door, and up the stairs. You cannot escape me now, brother. . .

5 I don't know what's wrong with me tonight. I must have unlucky cards - I've always won before when I've played against him. Mustn't look worried. Have another glass of wine. He'll make a mistake soon, and then I'll win all my money back . . .



Exercises



AFTER READING

8 Look at these adjectives and nouns from the story. Make three pairs of words - an adjective plus a noun- to suit each story. You can use words more than once.

Adjectives:

dark	myterious
deep	sad
evil	silent
fantastic	strange
frightening	terrible
ghostly	violent
loud	wild

Nouns:

anger	gloom	sadness
animal	house	scream
castle	idea	sound
disease	murder	storm
face	person	stranger
fear	plan	
feeling	pleasure	

9 Imagine that these stories appear in the newspapers. Here are some headlines for the stories. Which headlines go with which stories? Which headlines do you prefer? Why?

FANTASTIC PARTY ENDS IN DEATH

HOUSE DISAPPEARS IN STORM

KILLER HIDES BODY, THEN TELLS POLICE

CAT CALLS POLICE TO BODY

STRANGE DEATHS OF BROTHER AND SISTER

IS THIS THE MOST EVIL MAN IN EUROPE?

ANIMAL-LOVER ARRESTED FOR MURDER

MAN KILLS ENEMY AND MURDERS SELF

THE AND THE CRUEL PUNISHED AT LAST

'I CAN'T ESCAPE TERRIBLE SOUND, MAD KILLER TELLS POLICE

10 Which story did you find most frightening? Why?