

## Homework #1

Student name: *Hashem A. Damrah*

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Course: *Honors English 2* – Teacher: *Ms. Briery*

Due date: *Feb 18 by 11:59pm*

### Part A

I think the theme of **Edgar Allen Poe's** story, *The Premature Burial's* main theme is how extreme terror can affect one's state of mind. The narrator's terror is the result of him being obsessed with his fear of being buried alive.

*"I entered into a series of elaborate precautions. Among other things, I had the family vault so remodeled as to admit of being readily opened from within. The slightest pressure upon a long lever that extended far into the tomb would cause the iron portal to fly back. There were arrangements also for the free admission of air and light, and convenient receptacles for food and water, within immediate reach of the coffin intended for my reception."*

*This coffin was warmly and softly padded, and was provided with a lid, fashioned upon the principle of the vault-door, with the addition of springs so contrived that the feeblest movement of the body would be sufficient to set it at liberty. Besides all this, there was suspended from the roof of the tomb, a large bell, the rope of which, it was designed, should extend through a hole in the coffin, and so be fastened to one of the hands of the corpse."*

shows that he is obsessed with this fear and he tries everything he can to prevent this from happening. The following text uses a sentence structure to create suspense.

*"In all this I endured, there was no physical suffering but of moral distress, an infinite suffering. My fancy turned to all things charnel, I talked "of worms, of tombs, and epitaphs." I was lost in reveries of death, and the idea of premature burial held continual possession of my brain."*

*"The ghastly Danger to which I was subjected haunted me day and night. When night covered the Earth, then, with every horror of thought, I shook—shook as the quivering plumes upon the hearse. When Nature could endure wakefulness no longer, it was with a struggle that I consented to sleep—for I shuddered to reflect that, upon awaking, I might find myself the tenant of a grave."*

It also has some rhythm to it, which adds onto the suspense.

**Part B**

When I was younger (like 4-5), I was terrified of earth quakes and sink holes. I would always do research by reading books, websites, etc. I was so obsessed, it was hard for me to go to sleep because I thought my house will fall down because of a sink hole appearing. Just like how the character from the story did, I would always create a plan for each of the scenarios. Just like how the character's fear took his mind, I eventually started to get more and more nervous/crazy. But, eventually, I grew out of these two fears.