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English 2H

Ms. Hopkins

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Edgar Allen Poe was a writer and poet in the nineteenth century. He was an early pioneer the horror and detective genres. He was one of the greatest American writers that ever lived. In his works, he uses imagery to give the reader the reoccurring feeling that they are in the story and can see what the narrator is seeing. This can be seen in all his stories, especially *The Pit and the Pendulum*, *The Black Cat*, and *The Masque of the Red Death*.

In *The Pit and the Pendulum*, when the narrator is describing the process of his being sentenced to death, he says “I saw the lips of the black-robed judges. They appeared to me white— whiter than the sheet upon which I trace these words...I saw them writhe with a deadly locution.” The reader feels the tension and worry that the narrator feels when the judges are dooming him to death. Later, Poe describes the pendulum by saying “its nether extremity was formed of a crescent of glittering steel, about a foot in length from horn to horn...and the under edge evidently as keen as that of a razor.” From this description, the reader can feel the horror and increasing panic of the narrator as the pendulum descends.