

Comprehension Questions for “The Raven”

List three verbs that show what the poem’s narrator is doing in the first stanza.

The narrator of the poem is sad because his lost love is dead. What is her name and how does he try to escape his sorrow?

What fills the narrator’s heart with terror in stanza 3?

What does the narrator see when he first opens the chamber door (stanza 4)?

In stanza 7, the raven flies into the narrator’s chamber. Where does the raven perch?

What is the first question the narrator asks the raven (stanza 8)?

What is the raven’s only answer to the narrator’s questions?

In stanza 12, the narrator sits down in front of the raven. What is the narrator thinking as he looks at the bird?

As the poem progresses, the narrator becomes more and more furious with the raven. Why does he become so angry?

Where is the raven at the end of the poem (stanza 18)? What does the raven’s presence tell the reader about the narrator’s grief?

Literary Questions

Edgar Allan Poe is famous for using **symbolism** in his stories and poetry. How could the raven be a symbol in this poem? What clues does Poe give you to imply that the raven is a symbol rather than a literal creature?

Poe is also famous for using **allusions** in his writing. Use your glossary of literary terms to define *allusion*. Then find and write down two examples from "The Raven." Next to each example you provide, write down the type of allusion it is (literary, mythological, biblical, etc.).

How would you describe the **atmosphere** created by the setting? Which images in the beginning of the poem create this atmosphere?