

TELL-TALE HEART QUESTIONS

1. Does the narrator think he's mad? What evidence does he provide?
2. Is the narrator mad? Provide evidence one way or the other.
3. List 3 specific Gothic elements of the story.
4. Show how the story fits Poe's particular psychological concerns. Refer to the lecture on Poe.
5. Show how the story fits Poe's criteria for the short story, paying special attention to what he says about "psychological effect." Refer to the lecture on Poe.
6. Explain how the story reflects one Romantic element other than "Gothicism."
7. The narrator says the man's "vulture eye" bothers him. Why do you think it bothers him?
8. The narrator says his senses have been made more acute. What evidence does he provide for this?
9. The narrator is very prideful. Give examples of this.
10. Explain why the technique of 1st person narration is so effective in the story.
11. What reason does he give for killing the man? What do you think his real motivation is? Consider that a 1st person narrator is frequently unreliable.
12. Does he feel any remorse for his deed? Give support.
- ~~13. What do you think he is really hearing at the end? Why?~~
14. Why does he reveal the body? Do the police even suspect it is there?
15. Who do you think he is talking to?
16. Who is he trying to convince he is not mad? Why is this so important to him?
- ~~17. What are the defining characteristics of the narrator's personality?~~