

Name: _____

“Annabel Lee” Reading Guide

PreReading

1. What do you think your loved ones (family members and close friends) will say about you after your death?

During Reading

2. What can you infer about the speaker of this poem? Who is he? How does he feel?

3. What is the “wind” that kills Annabelle Lee in the third stanza? What type of figurative language does Poe use when he compares the cause of Annabel Lee’s death to the wind?

4. The central idea of this poem deals with a love that lasts even after death. Which line from the poem best illustrates this central idea?
 - a. “And neither the angels in heaven above,/Nor the demons down under the sea/Can ever dissever my soul from the soul/Of the beautiful Annabel Lee.”
 - b. “For the moon never beams without bringing me dreams/Of the beautiful Annabel Lee;/And the stars never rise but I feel the bright eyes/Of the beautiful Annabel Lee”
 - c. “I was a child and she was a child,/In this kingdom by the sea”
 - d. “It was many and many a year ago,/In this kingdom by the sea”

Name: _____

“Annabel Lee” Analysis Guide

Learning Target: I can analyze the impact of rhymes and repetitions of sounds.

5. This poem has a very specific rhyme scheme where every even-numbered line rhymes. However, this pattern is broken in the last 2 stanzas when a rhyme occurs in 2 lines that directly follow each other. A change in the rhyme scheme indicates a change in the ideas of the poem. Carefully reread these last 2 stanzas. Then answer this question:

What is different in the last 2 stanzas that would explain the change in the rhyme scheme?

Learning Target: I can determine the meaning of figurative words and phrases.

6. In this poem, Poe uses several hyperboles to describe his love for Annabel Lee. Identify 2 of them and explain what idea Poe is emphasizing in each hyperbole.

Learning Target: I can determine how a poem’s structure contributes to its meaning.

7. This poem is a narrative poem. How does presenting this poem in a narrative form help you understand it more clearly? How would this poem be different if it were an elegy?

Name: _____

Meet the Poet

Edgar Allan Poe

Edgar Allan Poe was born in Boston, Massachusetts on January 19, 1809. Both of his parents died before he was three years old. As a result, Poe was sent to live with foster parents in Virginia. Poe's relationship with his foster father was difficult throughout his entire life. Poe's foster mother died from tuberculosis (a lung disease), and her death helped Poe and his foster father to patch up their relationship for a brief time. Their relationship worsened, however, and when Poe was expelled from the United States Military Academy at West Point, he moved in with his aunt and her daughter, Virginia. Poe and Virginia fell in love and married in 1836. Poe worked as a poet, editor, and short story writer but struggled with alcoholism and depression. This worsened when Virginia contracted tuberculosis and died in 1847. Poe died in Baltimore, Maryland on October 7, 1849.