

Welcome to Thinkport's Student Activity Center! Your teacher has directed you to this student activity to help you learn more about the topic you are studying.

Title: Mad About Poe 2 - Interpretive Meaning of "The Tell-Tale Heart"

Audience: Middle

Duration: 50 Minutes

Subject Area(s):

Language Arts - Literature

Grade Level(s): 6,7,8

Student Directions:

"How, then, am I mad? Hearken! and observe how healthily--how calmly I can tell you the whole story." -Excerpt from *The Tell-Tale Heart*.

Does trying to interpret the meaning of a story ever drive you mad? Today you will use technology tools to help you go beyond the literal meaning of the story and delve into the deeper meaning of Poe's story, *The Tell-Tale Heart*.

Directions: Go to the My Tell-Tale Heart section of the Poe site. Review the use of the tools. In the Mad About Poe 1- Literal Meaning of "The Tell-Tale Heart" lesson, you read to gain an understanding about what happened in "The Tell-Tale Heart." This time you will read the story and use the interactive to help you interpret the story. When you read the story and use the interactive this time you are looking for a deeper meaning in the story. Use each tool once and some of the tools several times to make comments and ask questions that will help you interpret the story. By themselves the plot, theme, characters and setting in "The Tell Tale Heart" are nothing extraordinary. Instead it is Poe's use of symbolism and irony that makes the story so memorable. Use the interactive to help you point out and explain the symbolism and irony you find in the story. When you have finished your work, print a copy of your annotations. This is very important because once you close the interactive, all of your annotations will be lost. After you have finished with the interactive and printed your work, spend a few minutes answering the question, "How did Poe use symbolism and irony to turn an ordinary story into an extraordinary story?"

My Tell-Tale Heart

This Web page allows you to add questions and comments into the text as you read Poe's story *The Tell-Tale Heart*.

<http://knowingpoe.thinkport.org/writer/telltaleheart.asp>

How did Poe use symbolism and irony to turn an ordinary story into an extraordinary story?

Activity Signature

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