

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: The Death of Me: What Happened to Poe?

Audience: Middle

Duration: 45 min

Subject Area(s):

Social Studies

Grade Level(s): 6,7,8

Student Directions:

No one is sure how Edgar Allen Poe died, but people have suggested some amazing theories. In this activity you will act as detectives to find support for some interesting theories on Poe's death as you determine what theories are probable.

There are several theories of how Poe died. Your goal is to find evidence and clues to support one theory of how Poe died. As you open the *It'll Be the Death of Me* Interactive portion of the Web site you will see a series of scenes containing words and pictures. The story begins on a rainy day. The text for the story is on the left-hand side and begins with information about a school assignment that's due and a hard drive crashing. You will follow each step in the *It'll Be the Death of Me* Interactive and stop when the PO-Q file draw appears with the Poe's Death files displayed.

These folders contain evidence and clues regarding theories of Poe's death. Open The Death of Me Find the Clues Worksheet and write about the theory you have been assigned. To complete your worksheet you will open one folder, read the clues, and record what you have found using your own words. Your goal is to find evidence to support one theory of how Poe died. As you read, remember to evaluate each piece of evidence and think about how it supports the theory. Think like a detective might. The folder will also direct you to further resources you can use to complete the six required clues on your worksheet. You must follow some of the links to additional resources in order to complete your worksheet.

After you collect your clues, you will need to summarize your evidence to prepare for the Detective's Forum presentation. After you have listened to your classmates' presentations complete the final section of the worksheet that asks you to summarize two additional theories on how Poe died. Use The Detective's Forum Scoring Tool to evaluate the quality of your work.

Knowing Poe This Web site contains an interactive portion that lets you take on the role of a student writing a book report on Poe's life. You visit a dark, creepy and rarely used section of the library basement to learn about different theories of how Poe died by exploring file cabinets full of information.

<http://knowingpoe.thinkport.org/person/death.asp>

How did Edgar Allen Poe die?

The Death of Me Find the Clues Worksheet ([View](#))

The Detective's Forum Scoring Tool ([View](#))

Activity Signature

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