

Welcome to the Teachers' Instructions area for this student activity. Here you'll find directions and suggestions for using this activity along with the materials you need to evaluate your students' work.

Title: The Black Cat Drawings

Audience: Middle

Duration: 45 min

Subject Area(s):

Language Arts - Literature

Grade Level(s): 6,7,8

Teacher Directions:

Overview: Students will use the Picture This Interactive in reading *The Black Cat* to gain a better understanding of this chilling short story. Students have the option of reading along as they listen to the narration of this story. This activity allows students to choose a picture that most closely captures what they are imagining as they read and use these pictures as a summary for what is read.

This activity can be completed using a variety of technology configurations. If a computer lab is available, students can access the activity and worksheets through Thinkport. Another option would be to display the Web site on a classroom computer with a projection device. In this case, students will need a copy of each worksheet. To listen to the narration, the computers will need speakers.

Introductory Activity

Ask each student to draw a picture of the following items: A house A car Divide the students into pairs and ask them to compare their drawings. Lead a brief class discussion on the following questions: Why is each drawing different? Why are there similarities among the drawings? (The purpose of this discussion is to encourage students to begin to think about how life experiences provide different images prior to beginning the next steps in this activity.)

Focus for Media Interaction The focus for viewing the Black Cat Interactive is to provide students with a means to use images as they read to further their understanding of Poe's story.

Viewing Activity

Have your students visit the Knowing Poe Web site and use the Picture This Interactive to listen to a reading or read *The Black Cat*. Tell the students that as they read they will have a chance to select a picture that most closely represents what they are thinking at that particular place in the story. Show the students how to click on a picture and drag it to the appropriate box using the computer mouse. You may need to allow additional time for your students to complete the

Picture This Interactive. When the students have finished reading or listening to the story, have them select the option that allows them to print out the pictures.

Post Viewing Activity

Ask the students to use the pictures they printed as a reminder of what happened in the story. Conduct a discussion about the use of illustrations in stories. How do pictures influence what you are reading? Do pictures help you understand the text better or do they distract you? How can you use pictures to further your understanding of what you are reading? After the students have finished discussing the illustrations, ask for volunteers to share their ideas on the story. Then, have the students write a summary of the story using the pictures they printed as a guide.

Student Directions:

Have you ever pictured a character in your mind when you begin reading a book and been surprised when an illustration appears on the next page that looks nothing like what you had imagined? In this activity you will act as the story's illustration editor by choosing the picture that best represents what you think is happening as you listen to Edgar Allan Poe's *The Black Cat*.

The Students will:

Students will use pictures to help further their understanding of a literary work.

3.0 Comprehension of Literary Texts: Students will read, comprehend, interpret, analyze and evaluate literary texts.

Grade 8

2. Analyze text features to facilitate understanding of literary texts

a. Analyze text features that contribute to meaning

Assessment Limits:

→ All organizational, graphic, and informational aids that contribute to meaning

Go to the the Picture This Interactive on the Knowing Poe Web site and read along as you listen to the reading of *The Black Cat*. As you read the interactive you will be asked to stop at certain points and you will have a chance to select a picture that most closely represents what you are thinking at that particular place in the story. Then, after you have finished reading or listening, select the option that allows you to print the computer generated pictures you have chosen.

Knowing Poe: Picture This Interactive This Web site lets you listen to a reading of or read *The Black Cat* and choose pictures that match what you are thinking.

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

How do the pictures help you to understand the story of the Black Cat?

Now look through your printed pictures, think back to the story and the images that have stayed in your mind. Using the pictures from the story, write a summary of the *Black Cat*.

Activity Signature

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