

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: Distinctive Devices: Discover the Secrets behind Poe's Poetry

Audience: Middle

Duration: one class period

Subject Area(s):

Language Arts - Literature

Grade Level(s): 6,7,8

Student Directions:

"Nevermore" will you question poets and their chosen techniques when writing a brilliant work of poetry. Great poets deliberately use cool and interesting techniques when writing poetry, to create a masterpiece to be enjoyed by their readers for centuries. These techniques are referred to as "poetic devices."

Edgar Allen Poe is one of those distinguished and noteworthy poets who brilliantly uses poetic devices to captivate and draw in his reader. In this activity you will explore the Annotated Poe interactive, analyzing the famous poem, "The Raven." Sure you've probably read "The Raven" before, but this time as you read it, you'll be looking for poetic devices and sound patterns which will allow you to develop a better understanding of the poem, as well as enjoy it more than ever before!

After you analyze "The Raven" and develop an understanding of these literary techniques and how famous poets use poetic devices, you will have the opportunity to write your own powerful personal poem using these same devices.

Directions: Review the vocabulary of the poetic devices which you will learn about in the Annotated Poe interactive.

Vocabulary of Poetic Devices ([View](#))

Directions: This activity is worth a total of 25 points. The accurate completion of the worksheet is worth 10 points, and your original poem is worth 15. See the attached rubric for details.

Distinctive Devices activity rubric

[\(View\)](#)

Directions: Open the Annotated Poe link below. As you listen or read Edgar Allan Poe's poem *The Raven* you are responsible for simply enjoying the brilliance of one of Poe's finest works.

Annotated Poe

The Annotated Poe interactive allows you to read an unmarked copy of *The Raven* as it was published in 1849, just before Poe's death. Audio is provided to hear the poem read aloud.

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

Tips for reading *The Raven*:

1. Use the Annotated Poe link above to launch the interactive.
2. Read the overview.
3. Click on the link that says, "click image above to launch the interactive."
4. Click on the grey "default" tab and read the poem (use the left arrows to scroll up and down). *Alternatively, you may watch the video or listen to the audio (links provided in the upper left part of the screen).*
5. When you are finished, close the window and return to the main page.

Directions: Complete this worksheet based on your discoveries in the following interactives. The worksheet has three parts, so be sure to follow instructions for completing each individual section.

"The Raven" Student Analysis Worksheet

[\(View\)](#)

Directions: As you complete the Rhyme Scheme mini lessons using the three links below, you are responsible for identifying how Poe used rhyme schemes in his poem *The Raven*. Complete Part I of your Poetic Devices Worksheet as you go through the mini lesson.

Rhyme Scheme mini lesson

Learn about The Raven's unique rhyme schemes in this mini lesson which introduces internal and external rhyme schemes.

http://knowingpoe.thinkport.org/writer/rhyme_scheme.asp

What is the difference between internal and external rhyme schemes?

External Rhyme Scheme mini lesson

This mini lesson teaches an easy trick to identify external rhyme schemes.

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

Identify the external rhyme scheme used in The Raven.

Tips for completing the Rhyme Scheme mini lessons:

1. Refer to Part I of your worksheet.
2. To answer all questions accurately, be sure to click on all three links on the left part of the interactive (also located at the bottom of the text):
 - Internal rhyme scheme
 - External rhyme scheme
 - Rhyming Raven's challenge
3. Close the mini-lesson when you are done.

Annotated Poe

How did he do that? — Poe was a masterful poet. Learn to identify poetic devices using the Annotated Poe interactive. Use the "How Did He Do That" tab at the top of the interactive to look into Poe's poetic bag of tricks and see how great poets use things like rhyme schemes and alliteration.

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

How does Poe use poetic devices in *The Raven* in order to create a brilliant masterpiece?

Tips for exploring Annotated Poe:

Now that you have a deeper understanding of the rhyme scheme Poe used, you can continue to learn about and analyze other techniques he used in "The Raven." These techniques are referred to as poetic devices.

1. From the main part of the interactive, once again, click on the link that reads, "click image above to launch the interactive."
2. Refer to Part II of your worksheet.
3. Click on the blue tab (*How Did He Do That?*).
4. Click on the grey, highlighted areas in the poem to see explanations of different parts of the poem (explanations pop up in left margin).
5. Look for examples of each poetic device listed on your worksheet. Try to fill in as many answers as you can based on the definitions of the poetic devices (refer to your vocabulary sheet as necessary).
6. Continue to fill in the worksheet until it is complete.

Create your own Poem!

Now that you understand how one of the great masters of poetry used poetic devices to create one of the most widely celebrated poems in American history, it's time to create your own poetic masterpiece in Part III of your Student Analysis worksheet. Refer to your worksheet for instructions and to the Distinctive Devices activity rubric for grading criteria. Have fun!

Did you finish early?

Your main goal was to analyze Poe's "The Raven" in order to develop a deeper understanding of the poetic devices he used. There are so many other cool things to explore and learn about in the Annotated Poe Interactive, including additional poetic devices such as symbolism, tone, soliloquy, juxtaposition, and personification. Spend some time reading about them to develop an even deeper understanding of "The Raven."

Also check out the Knowing Poe interactive. Recommendations for your exploration include:

1. *Poe the Person* -- Watch, "It'll be the Death of Me" video. It's a creepy and fun way of learning more about Poe's life and death. Also travel through Poe's house on 203 N. Amity Street, which is now a museum in his honor. Discover the magic of history and imagination.
2. Take the time to create your own version of one of Poe's poems. From *Poe the Writer* click on the *My Tell-Tale Heart* link and follow the instructions. This is a fun way to put your own spin on someone else's writing.
3. If you're a Baltimore Raven's fan or simply like football, within *Poe's Library*, explore more about the relationship and the connections between Poe and the football team.

Activity Signature

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