

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 1 - Literal Meaning of "The Tell-Tale Heart"

**Audience:** Middle

**Duration:** 50 Minutes

**Subject Area(s):**

Language Arts - Literature

**Grade Level(s):** 6,7,8,9

### **Student Directions:**

Have you ever wanted to write a note to a character in a book you were reading when they did something shocking? Have you ever wanted to underline a particularly well-written phrase in a book so that you could share it with someone when you finished reading? Or maybe you have wanted to draw a big question mark around something that happened that you didn't understand. Well, you are in luck because today you will visit a Web site that allows you to add questions and comments to the text while you are reading.

**Directions:** Go to the My Tell-Tale Heart interactive on the Knowing Poe site. Take some time to explore the tools shown on the site. Your task is to understand the literal meaning of the story. Read "The Tell-Tale Heart" using the tools of My Tell-Tale Heart to assist you as you read. Try to use every tool at least once; however, you might need to use the question and thought tools more often to help clarify the literal meaning of the story. **IMPORTANT** Make sure that you print or e-mail your story before you exit My Tell-Tale Heart.

#### **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 do you think being able to add questions and comments as you read a story might help you understand the story?

**Directions:** Using the notes that you printed from My Tell-Tale Heart, complete the Tell-Tale Heart Discussion Guide found at the link below. This worksheet is designed to help you organize and respond to the material you collected using the My Tell-Tale Heart interactive and to address

any questions that you asked during the reading of the story. After you have completed the worksheet, create a group with one or two other students and do the following: 1) Share a piece of information - at least one from each tool - that you recorded using My Tell-Tale Heart. 2) Try to answer all of the questions that group members recorded using the "Question" tool. 3) Discuss how and if your summary changed after discussing the story with group members. If you weren't able to answer all of the questions that you recorded in My Tell-Tale Heart, ask other groups or the teacher for assistance.

Tell-Tale Heart Discussion Guide ([View](#))

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Activity Signature

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