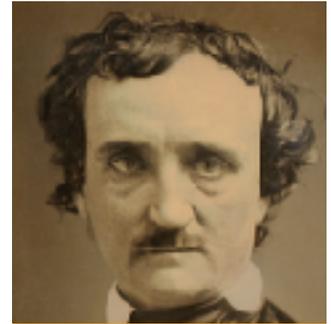


A Tell-Tale Tale

The Stories And Poems Of Edgar Allan Poe



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Edgar Allan Poe was born in Boston, Massachusetts in 1809. He is best known for his mysterious & macabre writing style in his famous poems & short stories. One of his most famous poems is entitled *The Raven and Other Poems* (1845). One of his most famous short stories is *The Masque of the Red Death* (1842).

Welcome to our show!

Join Bright Star's famous Lenny & Mabel as they take you through a not-so-spooky & oh-so hilarious journey through Edgar Allan Poe's life and most famous works!

Hear of "The Tell-Tale Heart!", dig deep with "The Cask of Amontillado" and quoth 'nevermore' with "The Raven" and hear the 'tintinnabulation' of 'The Bells!'"

1

WHAT IS A POEM?

Writing that gives expression of feelings and ideas by the use of special style or rhythm.

2

WHAT IS A STORY?

An account of imaginary or real people and events told for entertainment.

3

HOW DO I WRITE ONE?

Ask a parent or teacher and start writing! There are no wrong answers!

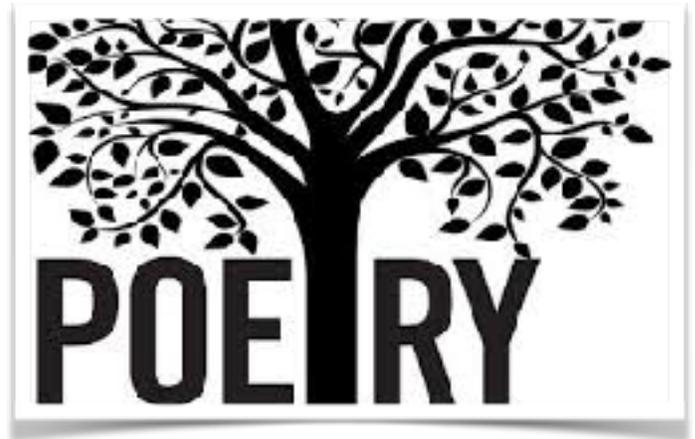


Have fun with some in-class activities!

Let the lessons leap beyond the stage, and try some of these easy in-class activities with your students!

1. Engage in a class discussion and ask some of the following questions: How can poetry be a useful tool today? Why do you think that Edgar Allan Poe used the Raven in his poem? What do you think the bells symbolized in his poem?
2. Dig in and start writing! A haiku is a poem that has three lines, and the syllables in the lines are 5-7-5. These rarely rhyme! Break up into groups of 3-4, and write a few haikus as a group! Then have each member of the group write a "rhyming couplet," which is two lines that have the same syllable count and also rhyme!

"All that we see or seem is but a dream within a dream." -Edgar Allan Poe



3. Write a story as a class together! Sit around in a circle and each person says one sentence, then passes the story to the next person! The next person then gets to add a sentence of their own to the story, and on and on until everyone has added their own bit!
4. Play the "swap" game! Pair up into groups of two. Have one person draw a picture, and another person write two sentences about what they feel that picture is about. Then swap roles and share! Did one person interpret their drawing in a different way than the artist intended? Use this to discuss viewpoints!

SOME USEFUL VOCABULARY WORDS!

"Alliteration" - Use of the same consonant at the beginning of each word.

"Apostrophe" - An address to an absent or imaginary person.

"Assonance" - The repetition of similar vowels in successive words.

"Couplet" - A stanza consisting of two successive lines of verse

"Metaphor" - A figure of speech that suggests a non-literal similarity

"Simile" - A figure of speech expressing a similarity between things.



Classroom Activities!

Act Out a Poem! Break your students into small groups and give them time with one of Poe's works or another writer. Have them work on breaking down the poem into moments and eventually they will be standing in front of the class acting out these poems as short scenes. Costumes and props always help to bring literature to life.

Write Your Own Poem or Short Story! Mr. Poe's works are sometimes so spooky because they are so realistic. Have your students picture themselves doing a normal everyday activity and have them write a short story with a Poe inspired twist into the material. Are they studying late at night when they are visited by their dog? Are they riding a bike in the neighborhood when a spooky neighbor slows them down? The possibilities are endless.

"To me his prose is unreadable—like Jane Austen's." -Mark Twain 1909

Discussion Questions: What do you think is spookier? Watching a horror movie or reading a story by someone like Edgar Allan Poe? What elements make it spookier? Why?

Were there any particular scenes or characters or moments that made you nervous or scared? Why do we have those reactions to particular things?

Can you think of any current horror movies or writers that may have been inspired by the various works of Mr. Poe?

Imagine yourself living back when Poe was writing his stories. Do you think these would have been scarier then or now? Why? What was life like back then?

"It's because I liked Edgar Allan Poe's stories so much that I began to make suspense films."

Alfred Hitchcock, 1960



Before, During and After the Play...

FUN FACTS ABOUT THEATRE!

After a play is over and everyone goes home, there is always a light left on backstage.

It's called a ghost light!

The oldest play that is still around was written by an Ancient Greek named Aeschylus. It's almost 2500 years old!

The longest performance on stage ever was over 23 hours long! It happened in New Jersey in 2010.

William Shakespeare is a famous play writer. He wrote 37 plays and is still quoted by many people. There are 157 million google pages that mention him--the most of any famous person ever!

In theatre, it's considered bad luck to tell an actor, "Good luck" before a performance. Instead, you're supposed to say, "Break a leg!"



BEFORE YOU SEE THE PLAY...

Attending the theatre is very different from watching TV or going to the movies. For one thing, the actors are real people who are performing right then and there. They can see and hear everything that happens in the audience. Because of this, YOU are an important part of the play and it's important to do your job as an audience member well. Here are some tips before you see the play.

1. Please be quiet and respectful so everyone else around you can hear what's happening and so the actors can do their job.
2. If something is funny, it is okay to laugh!
3. The actors may ask you to participate. Don't be afraid to respond, ask a question or volunteer!
4. Keep your hands to yourself and your eyes up front.
5. If you like the play, be sure to clap at the end.
6. Have fun! Enjoy yourself!



After seeing the Play...

Write your own review of the play! A review is a way of telling your thoughts about a play, movie or book. Consider the following when you are writing your review.

What was your favorite part? Who was your favorite character? Can you summarize the play in your own words? If you had written this play, would you have done anything different? Would you recommend this play to a friend? Name one new thing you learned from watching this play!

YOU CAN DO THIS TOO!

Where to start: All of our actors started out playing and telling stories when they were young- then they decided to study acting in school. Now they are pros! Here are some ways you can start doing theatre right away!

In School! Does your school have plays or musical performances? This is a great place to start.

In Your Community! Many towns have community theaters or local acting groups. See if you can try out!

Start Something! If your school doesn't have a drama club or a theatre club, talk to your favorite teacher about how you might be able to start one.

At Home! Get together with friends, cousins, brothers and sisters and make your own play. You can make up plays based on your favorite books and stories. Invite family and friends to see your performance.

Try new things and do your best at them! There are lots of jobs in the theatre besides acting. There are people who paint the sets, make costumes, write plays and more. Get the most out of your art, music and English classes. You can use all of these things to be a live theatre pro!

Everything about the Theatre!



A mini-van is our hip and favored mode of transportation for touring the country!

THEATRE VOCABULARY!

Actor: The people on-stage performing the play.

Backdrop: The background for the play.

Props: Anything that an actor holds while on-stage--a cane, book or rubber chicken.

Downstage: the area closest to the audience a long time ago stage were built at angles.



Upstage: The area away from the audience, like the back wall of the a stage.

Director: The person who told the actors where to go while they were on-stage and helped them create the characters they played.

Facts about us!

1. Did you know we're owned by an Emmy winning actor?
2. Our actors average 1,000 miles a week traveling the country to entertain young audiences.
3. Our programs have been seen in almost every corner of the country and even around the world.
4. We watch over 1200 actors audition before we cast our season.
5. We offer dozens of different shows a season from Black History to anti-bullying and literary classics.
6. We toured Moscow with performances of our Aesop's Fables.
7. We're based in Asheville, NC.

ABOUT US!

Founded in 2003, Bright Star Theatre tours the nation offering high quality, affordable programs to every imaginable venue. We've had countless engagements at the National Theatre, toured to Moscow and are so grateful to be in your very school today!

Costumes: The wigs, clothing and glasses that the actors wore to help flush out their characters .



Auditions: How an actor gets a role is by auditioning. They may have to interview, pretend to be a character from the play or read something from it.

Set Designer: The person who decided what should be on the background and who painted or created it.

The Process of a Play:

1. Actors audition
2. Directors cast the show (that means they choose actors)
3. The directors and actors rehearse the play (that means they practice it).
4. A team of people works on building the set, costumes and props.
5. The play opens (that means it is performed for the first time)!

Were there other terms that came from the experience of seeing the live play that you'd like to learn more about?

BRIGHT STAR THEATRE

Bright Star Touring Theatre performs across the country from Washington State to Moscow, Russia and many schools, museums theaters and community events in between. Each season our shows run the gamut from Black History to anti-bullying, from literary classics to biographical shows. Our shows are available throughout the year for any event in anywhere... literally!

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Learn more about this show, this company & our whole Season:

www.brightstartheatre.com

A TELL-TALE TALE

Is produced by Bright Star Theatre Company & made its national tour debut in Fall 2017.

We want every show to be special and remarkable for our audience. Please feel free to connect with us at anytime to tell us about your experience:

David Ostergaard, Owner, Founder, CEO
David@brightstartheatre.com