Character Analysis

Name: _____

Date: _____

Fill in the table below giving evidence from the poem as to how and why the Knight of Eldorado relates to the three character descriptions: optimistic, stubborn and doomed.

1. Fill in the table for each character. Tick **Active**, **Passive** or both, and give evidence from the story.



THE KNIGHT OF ELDORADO

☐ Active

☐ Passive

Optimistic: evidence from the poem

Stubborn: evidence from the poem

Doomed: evidence from the poem

Your own verdict

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Matching exercise

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. Match each phrase from the story with an image. Draw a line to join them.

1

And o'er his heart a shadow – Fell as he found No spot of ground That looked like Eldorado

2

And, as his strength, Failed him at length, He met a pilgrim shadow –

A



B



Glossary

Name: _____

Date: _____

Eldorado: (n) a fictitious country or city full of gold

Gaily: (adv) in a cheerful or light-hearted way

Bedight: (adj) adorned

Gallant: (adj) brave and noble

Pilgrim: (n) a traveller on a long journey, often to a sacred place

Quest: (n) a long search for something

BEFORE YOU READ

Have you ever searched for something that you could not find? Why did you keep going, or why did you stop?

Do you think the place or goal people dream of exists? Where might “Eldorado” be?

Quiz

Name: _____

Date: _____

Please choose the best option for each of the following questions.

1. What did the gallant knight do as he journeyed along in search of Eldorado?

(a) Fought his enemies
(b) Sang a song
(c) Told stories to his horse
(d) Drank wine

2. When does the knight meet the shadow?

(a) On his seventh year of wandering
(b) When his strength fails him
(c) On the 1st January
(d) On his birthday

3. Where does the shadow say Eldorado is?

(a) In his mind
(b) On the edge of his scythe
(c) Over the mountains of the moon
(d) In the Americas

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Answer these extra questions about what you discover as you read:

1. What happens when you tap the gallant knight on horseback?

_____

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Think like a detective

Name: _____

Date: _____

Answer in full sentences. Support your ideas with evidence from the text.

1. The knight is “gaily bedight” at the start and old and weak at the end. What does the poem suggest about time and a lifelong quest? Is he a hero or a fool?

2. What does the shadow tell the knight to do? Is it good advice, a cruel joke or something else? Support your view with words from the poem.

3. Poe never says whether Eldorado exists. Why might he leave this open, and what might Eldorado stand for in a person’s life?

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Writing

Name: _____

Date: _____

Write a letter from the Knight of Eldorado to his brother, explaining that he is leaving to search for Eldorado and justifying his decision. Make sure you:

a. Explain why he must go and what he hopes to find.

b. Answer the doubts his brother is likely to have.

c. Show his mood: optimism, stubbornness, or both.

