Character Analysis

Name: _____

Date: _____

The table has four adjectives that describe the narrator and St John. Fill in the evidence and supporting quotes from the story that show why each description fits them. Try to give at least 2–3 pieces of evidence and quotes for each description.

Description	Evidence	Quotes
DISSATISFIED		
RESTLESS		
CURIOUS		
MORBID		

Matching exercise

Name: _____

Date: _____

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

1 *There one might find the rotting, bald pates of famous noblemen, and the fresh and radiantly golden heads of new-buried children.*

2 *I can recall the scene in these final moments – the pale autumnal moon over the graves, casting long horrible shadows; the grotesque trees, drooping sullenly to meet the neglected grass and crumbling slabs.*

3 *It was incredibly tough and thick, but so old that we finally pried it open and feasted our eyes on what it held.*

4 *The jade amulet now reposed in a niche in our museum, and sometimes we burned a strangely scented candle before it.*

5 *His screams had reached the house, and I had hastened to the terrible scene in time to hear a whir of wings and see a vague black cloudy thing silhouetted against the rising moon.*

6 *The next day I carefully wrapped the green jade amulet and sailed for Holland.*

7 *Now, as the baying of that dead fleshless monstrosity grows louder and louder, and the stealthy whirring and flapping of those accursed web-wings closer and closer, I shall seek with my revolver the oblivion.*

A 

B 

C 

D 

E 

F 

G 

Glossary

Name: _____

Date: _____

Eldritch: (adj) weird and sinister

Nemesis: (n) arch-enemy

Prosaic: (adj) lacking imagination or originality

Aesthetic: (adj) concerned with beauty

Ennui: (n) boredom, listlessness

Enigma: (n) a mysterious thing

Pre-Raphaelites: (n) a group of English 19th-century artists

Diabolism: (n) devil worship

Baudelaire: (person) a French poet and critic

Huysmans: (person) a French novelist

Blasphemous: (adj) disrespectful of God or sacred things

Basalt: (n) a dark volcanic rock

Onyx: (n) a black semi-precious stone

Charnel: (adj) associated with death

Taxidermist: (n) someone who stuffs and preserves dead animals

Pate: (n) the head, especially the top of it

Goya: (person) a Spanish painter famous for depicting the horror and cruelty of war

Fastidious: (adj) attentive and careful

Exhumation: (n) digging up a corpse from the ground

Sepulchre: (n) a small room or monument where a dead person is buried

Pelf: (n) money or wealth, especially when dishonestly gained

Nebulous: (adj) in the form of a cloud or haze

Obeisance: (n) deferential respect

Thither: (adv) to or towards that place

Phosphorescent: (adj) giving off a glowing light

Ensanguined: (adj) stained or covered in blood

Bacchanale: (n) a wild celebration

Belial: (n) a name for the devil

BEFORE YOU READ

Why do you think some people are drawn to frightening or forbidden things, such as graveyards, ghost stories or horror films? Would you be?

Have you ever collected something? What makes a collection precious to its owner, and what could make it dangerous?

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Quiz

Name: _____

Date: _____

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

1. Why is the narrator about to blow out his brains?

(a) Because he is full of regrets for his past actions

(b) Because he can't get the image of the dying Lenore out of his head

(c) Because he's scared he will meet the same fate as St John

(d) Because he is terrified of bats

2. What led the narrator and St John to grave robbing?

(a) They were looking for a particular, rare amulet

(b) They were very poor

(c) They loved graveyards

(d) The need for stimulation and thrill

3. What can you find in the narrator's museum? Select all that apply.

[a] A collection of dried horse heads

[b] Nauseous musical instruments

[c] The shrivelled hand of Queen Elizabeth I

[d] A locked portfolio bound in human skin

[e] Winged onyx daemons

[f] An old steam engine

[g] Preserved human heads

4. Which spot brings St John and the narrator their hideous and inevitable doom?

(a) The Plutonian Graveyard

(b) The Basque Burial Grounds

(c) Covent Garden

(d) The Holland Churchyard

5. What sound makes the narrator and St John shudder as they delve into the ghoul's grave?

(a) The screeching of a banshee

(b) Their own hearts thumping in their chests

(c) The baying of a hound

(d) The sound of police sirens in the distance

6. What do the narrator and St John find in the grave?

(a) A skeleton and an amulet

(b) Nothing

(c) Two small, shrivelled pates

(d) A cluster of spiders

7. What do the narrator and St John recognise the jade hound figure as?

(a) A mirror image of themselves, staring back up at them

(b) The soul-symbol of a corpse-eating cult

(c) A terrible omen of doom

(d) Nothing they've ever come across, in all their years of daemoniacal study

8. What do the two friends think they hear while sailing back from Holland?

(a) The beating of bats' wings

(b) The moaning of a corpse

(c) The baying of a hound

(d) The keening of a terrible bird

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Quiz

Name: _____

Date: _____

9. What do the two friends think they see one night at the library window?

(a) A large, opaque body

(b) A flock of angry bats

(c) A decimated face

(d) A pale, translucent hand

10. What language is the articulate chattering in, that St John and the narrator hear upon throwing open the door to their museum?

(a) Arabic

(b) Flemish

(c) No earthly language

(d) Dutch

11. What do the two friends find outside the window on October 29?

(a) The young pup of some great breed of hound

(b) A series of indescribable footprints

(c) A trail of blood

(d) The jade amulet

12. What happens on November 18?

(a) They return home to find the museum door locked from the inside

(b) They hear the baying of the hound, right outside the window

(c) The amulet mysteriously disappears

(d) St John is torn to ribbons by some carnivorous thing

13. What does St John whisper as he dies?

(a) “The amulet – that damned thing”

(b) “It must be Abdul Alhazred”

(c) “Save yourself”

(d) “Repent!”

14. What does the narrator do with the contents of his museum when he moves to London?

(a) Burns and buries everything but the jade amulet

(b) Buries the jade amulet deep beneath the earth and locks everything else within the museum

(c) Leaves it all where it is, with the doors flung wide open

(d) Smashes it all to pieces in a mad hysteria

15. What does the narrator intend to do with the amulet in Holland?

(a) Destroy it

(b) Sell it

(c) He doesn’t know but is led by some undecipherable whim

(d) Return it to its dead owner

16. What queer interruption does the narrator encounter as he excavates the grave?

(a) The flock of bats reappears, flapping around his head

(b) The shadow of a hound is suddenly cast across the grave

(c) A dead pigeon falls out of the sky

(d) A vulture flies down to peck at the grave

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Quiz

Name: _____

Date: _____

17. What is different about the corpse in the grave this time around? Select all that apply.

- [a] It is covered in blood, flesh and hair
- [b] It has disappeared entirely
- [c] It is missing the green jade amulet
- [d] It has shrunk to less than a third of its size
- [e] It appears to be sentient
- [f] It gives a deep howl

18. What does the narrator do at the end of the story?

- (a) Shoots himself in the head
- (b) Buries himself in the grave with the corpse
- (c) Fights the hound to the death
- (d) Runs away to live on a deserted island

If you read it in the iClassics app

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

1. What happens when you tap the gargoyle in the narrator's museum?

2. What does the dark winged figure over St John's body do?

3. What can you see in the water once the narrator's ship has sailed out of view?

4. What scene unfolds through the bars of the window of the squalid thieves' den?

Think like a detective

Name: _____

Date: _____

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

1. The story opens with the narrator about to shoot himself and with the baying of a hound already close. What does starting at the end do to the way you read the rest? Find two details that foreshadow the ending.

2. The two friends take the amulet from a grave they have robbed. Using the story, explain why their search for something new turns into a punishment. What is Lovecraft suggesting about curiosity?

3. The hound is mostly heard and glimpsed, rarely described in detail. Why might Lovecraft leave so much unseen? Compare the effect of the sounds with the effect of the images.

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Writing

Name: _____

Date: _____

"Humans are bound to constantly seek the truth, and in this way they are doomed." Write a short essay explaining how this idea is explored by Lovecraft in *The Hound*. Make sure you:

a. Include an introduction and a conclusion.

b. Use evidence and quotes from the story to back up your argument.

c. Use the descriptions, evidence and quotes from your character table if you get stuck.



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