Character Analysis

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. Match the characteristics provided with each of the characters. Some words are used twice: Supportive, Absorbed, Submissive.

Wounded | Delirious | Supportive | Supportive | Absorbed | Absorbed | Stuporous | Gleeful | Austere | Frolicsome | Jealous | Humble | Meek | Wild | Moody | Submissive | Submissive | Sacrificial | Famous | Obsessed



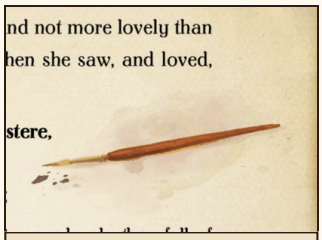
NARRATOR



PEDRO (THE VALET)



THE MAIDEN



THE ARTIST

2. Now write your own description of one character, using the words given.

3. Extension: create a potential social media profile for one of the characters.

Name: _____ Age: _____

Location: _____ Hobbies: _____

Likes: _____ Dislikes: _____

Website: _____ Favourite quotes: _____

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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 "*one of those piles of commingled gloom and grandeur which have so long frowned among the Appennines*"

2 "*my fancy, shaken from its half slumber, had mistaken the head for that of a living person*"

3 "*I sought eagerly the volume which discussed the paintings and their histories*"

4 "'*This is indeed Life itself!' turned suddenly to regard his beloved: she was dead!*"

A 

B 

C 

D 

Glossary

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chateau: (n) a large house or castle

Valet: (n) a man's personal male attendant

Commingled: (adj) mixed together

Grandeur: (n) splendour and impressiveness

Sumptuous: (adj) splendid and expensive-looking

Manifold: (adj) many and various

Arabesque: (n) a complex art form originating in ancient Islamic art

Incipient: (adj) beginning to happen

Delirium: (n) an extremely disturbed and incoherent state of mind

Perusal: (n) the action of reading or examining something

Purport: (v) to claim oneself

Candelabrum: (n) large candlestick with several candles

Niche: (n) a small opening, generally in a wall, used to display something

Hitherto: (adv) until then

Aright: (adv) correctly

Dissipate: (v) to disappear

Vignette: (n) an illustration where the subject fades into the background

Gilded: (adj) covered in a thin layer of gold

Filigreed: (adj) decorated with a pattern of fine gold or silver wire

Vehement: (adj) showing strong feeling

Quaint: (adj) attractively unusual or old-fashioned

Austere: (adj) serious in manner

Frolic: (v) to play or move in a cheerful way

Untoward: (adj) unexpected and inappropriate

Meek: (adj) quiet, submissive, averse to confrontation

Reverie: (n) daydream

Pine: (v) to experience a mental and physical decline

Wrought: (v) worked

Countenance: (n) face

Tint: (n) shade of colour

Tremulous: (adj) shaking or quivering

Pallid: (adj) pale

Aghast: (adj) shocked, horrified

BEFORE YOU READ

Have you ever looked at a portrait and felt that it was watching you? What made it feel so alive?



Can a work of art "take" something from the person it shows? What do you think?

Quiz

Name: _____

Date: _____

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

1. Why did the narrator's valet break into the chateau?

(a) Because it was very cold outside.

(b) Because the narrator was seriously hurt.

(c) Because it was a full moon.

2. True or false: the Oval Portrait is set in the mountains.

(a) True

(b) False

3. Which of the decorations in the house does the narrator find the most interesting?

(a) The black velvet curtains.

(b) The armorial trophies.

(c) The paintings.

4. What does the narrator find on a pillow?

(a) A picture.

(b) A book.

(c) A mask.

5. What was the "effect altogether unanticipated" produced by the narrator moving the candelabrum?

(a) He woke up his valet.

(b) He was able to read his book more clearly.

(c) He illuminated a picture he hadn't seen yet.

6. Why did he close his eyes when he saw the painting?

(a) To make sure he was seeing things correctly.

(b) Because the light was too bright.

(c) Because he was so tired.

7. What was it about the painting that affected the narrator the most?

(a) The golden frame.

(b) The beauty of the girl.

(c) How realistic the portrait was.

8. Why was it a "terrible thing" for the maiden to hear that her husband wanted to paint her?

(a) Because it would be so boring for her to sit and pose for him.

(b) Because he got so moody when he painted.

(c) Because she was jealous of his love of art.

9. True or false: it took the painter 3 days to finish the portrait.

(a) True

(b) False

10. Why does the painter become tremulous, pallid and aghast?

(a) Because he realises the painting is life itself.

(b) Because his wife has died.

(c) Because the painting is so beautiful.

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Quiz

Name: _____

Date: _____

If you read it in the iClassics app

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

1. How many candles are there in the candelabrum?

2. What is the girl in the portrait holding in her hand?



Think like a detective

Name: _____

Date: _____

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

1. The narrator closes his eyes, then looks at the portrait again. What is he trying to find out, and what does his reaction tell you about the painting?

2. Who or what is responsible for the maiden's death: the artist, his devotion to art, or the maiden herself? Defend your view with evidence from the text.

3. Why do you think Poe has the narrator *read* the story in a book instead of telling it directly?

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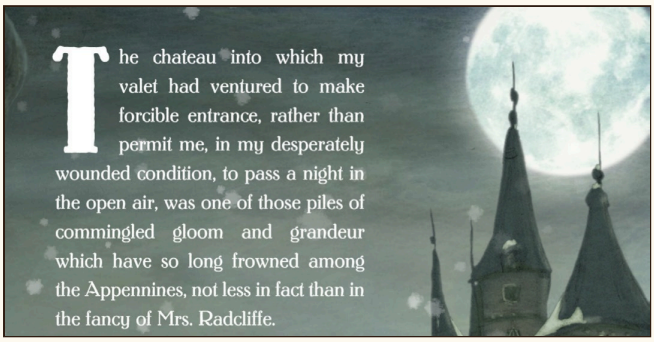
Writing

Name: _____

Date: _____

Please answer the questions below with a written response, based on the excerpts from the text provided.

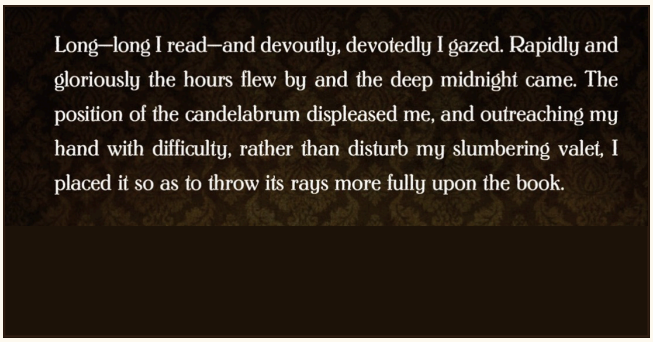
1.



AS THE VALET

Write a message to your wife explaining why you won't be home tonight. Include as much detail as possible: where are you? Why can't you come home? How do you feel about the situation and why?

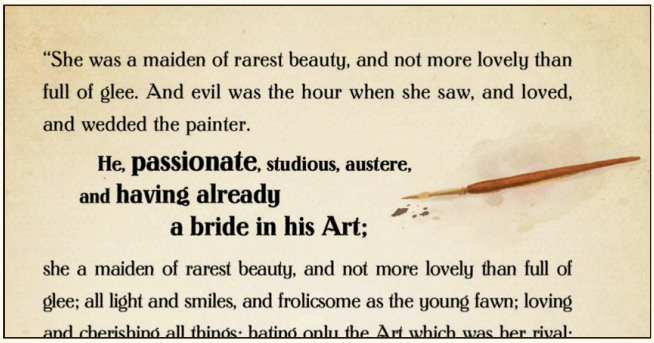
2.



AS THE NARRATOR

You are posting a picture of the painting to your followers. Write a comment to go with it. Include where you found the painting, what you were doing when you found it, and why it is so interesting.

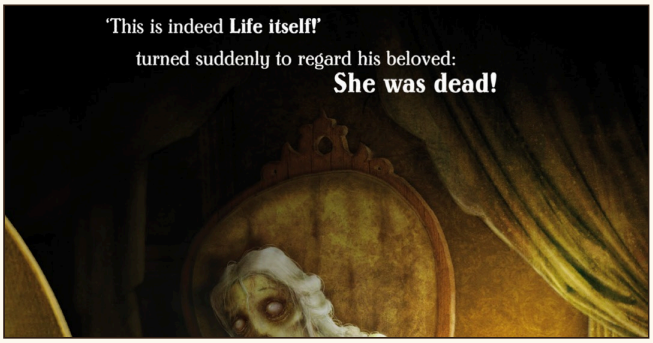
3.



AS THE MAIDEN

Write a message to your sister about your husband wanting to paint your portrait. Explain why you are unhappy about it and ask for advice.

4.



AS THE ARTIST

Write a message to your best friend telling him that your wife has died. Explain what happened, why you think she died, and how you feel.

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