Character Analysis

Name: _____

Date: _____

Active characters move the story along by consciously and deliberately making changes to their surroundings. Passive characters do the opposite: they are simply affected by the changes going on around them. Some characters are active in some ways and passive in others, or change from one to the other as the story progresses.

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



NARRATOR

☐ Active

☐ Passive

Relationship to other characters

Physical description

Personality

Evidence from the poem



THE RAVEN

☐ Active

☐ Passive

Relationship to other characters

Physical description

Personality

Evidence from the poem



LENORE

☐ Active

☐ Passive

Relationship to other characters

Physical description

Personality

Evidence from the poem

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Matching exercise

Name: _____

Date: _____

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

1 *Here I opened wide the door;– Darkness there, and nothing more.*

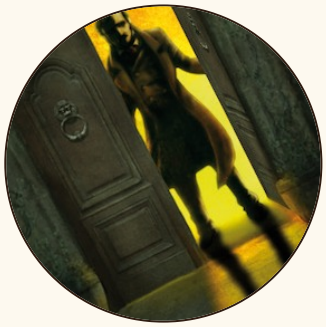
2 *Open here I flung the shutter, when, with many a flirt and flutter, In there stepped a stately raven of the saintly days of yore*

3 *But the raven still beguiling all my sad soul into smiling, Straight I wheeled a cushioned seat in front of bird, and bust, and door*

4 *And his eyes have all the seeming of a demon that is dreaming, And the lamp-light o'er him streaming throws his shadow on the floor*

A 

B 

C 

D 

Glossary

Name: _____

Date: _____

Quaint: (adj) attractively unusual or old-fashioned

Lore: (n) traditions or collective knowledge

Wrought: (v) worked

Surcease: (n) relief or consolation

Entreat: (v) ask someone to do something

Implore: (v) beg someone to do something

Lattice: (n) interlaced pattern

Thereat: (adv) at that place or as a result of

Yore: (n) long ago

Obeisance: (n) respect

Mien: (n) appearance or manner

Pallas: (n) another name for the Greek goddess Athene

Beguile: (v) to charm or enchant

Fancy: (n) the faculty of imagination

Countenance: (n) face

Craven: (n) a cowardly person

Plutonian: (adj) of the underworld

Quoth: (v) said

Sublunary: (adj) belonging to the physical world

Adjure: (v) urge or request

Beguiling: (adj) charming or enchanting

Divining: (v) discovering by intuition

Censer: (n) an incense container

Nepenthe: (n) a drug that cures the mind of bad memories or grief, from Homer's Odyssey

Quaff: (v) drink

Tempest: (n) a violent windy storm

Desolate: (adj) uninhabited and bleak

Balm of Gilead: (reference) medicine referenced in the Book of Jeremiah in the Bible

Aidenn: (n) the garden of Eden

BEFORE YOU READ

Have you ever had a thought, a song or a memory that kept coming back and would not leave you alone? Describe it.



Why do writers and songwriters repeat a word or a line (a refrain)? What effect does it have on you?

Quiz

Name: _____

Date: _____

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

1. What does the narrator hear as he ponders over the volumes of lore?

(a) The cry of a bird
(b) Somebody whispering his name
(c) Nothing but the wind
(d) Something rapping at the door

2. What month of the year is the story set in?

(a) October
(b) December
(c) July
(d) February

3. What does the narrator feel sorrow for?

(a) The lack of new information in his books
(b) The dying of the fire
(c) That he must rise to answer the door
(d) The loss of a maiden named Lenore

4. What does the narrator see when he opens his door?

(a) Only darkness
(b) A raven
(c) His lost Lenore
(d) His butler

5. What does the narrator whisper into the darkness?

(a) "Who's there?"
(b) "Leave me alone!"
(c) "Lenore!"
(d) "Where is the light switch?"

6. Where does the raven perch?

(a) On the narrator's head
(b) Upon a bust of Pallas
(c) Upon a dormant candelabra
(d) Upon a statue of Pluto

7. What does the raven say when the narrator asks for its name?

(a) Mr Raven
(b) It lets out an unintelligible squawk
(c) Nevermore
(d) Mind your own business

8. Why does the narrator initially guess that the raven keeps saying "nevermore"?

(a) He is a pessimist
(b) He learnt it because of the misfortune of his master
(c) It is trying to warn him of something
(d) He can't hazard a guess as to why

9. What is the lining of the cushion the narrator rests his head on made of?

(a) Sapphire silk
(b) Cobalt cotton
(c) Heliotrope hemp
(d) Violet velvet

10. Where does the narrator tell the raven to go?

(a) To the Night's Plutonian shore
(b) Back to his nest
(c) To find his sweet Lenore
(d) To deliver a letter for him

If you read it in the iClassics app

Answer this extra question about what you discover as you read:

1. What happens when you tap the closed window shutters?

Think like a detective

Name: _____

Date: _____

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

1. The narrator asks the raven questions he must know will get the answer “Nevermore”. Why does he keep asking? What does this reveal about his state of mind?

2. Poe has the raven land on a bust of Pallas, the goddess of wisdom. What contrast does he create between the visitor and the place it chooses, and why might that matter?

3. Compare the narrator at the beginning of the poem with the narrator at the end. How has he changed, and who is responsible: the raven or the narrator himself?

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Writing

Name: _____

Date: _____

Throughout The Raven, Poe uses a repeated pattern of rhyming in each 6-line section of the poem. Look at the example below (the rhyming words are highlighted in the same colour).

> *Then this ebony bird* **beguiling** *my sad fancy into* **smiling**,
> *By the grave and stern decorum of the countenance it* **wore**,
> *"Though thy crest be shorn and* **shaven**, *thou," I said, "art sure no* **craven**,
> *Ghastly grim and ancient Raven wandering from the Nightly* **shore** —
> *Tell me what thy lordly name is on the Night's Plutonian* **shore**!"
> *Quoth the Raven "*__Nevermore__."

Now write your own 6-line poem about an animal of your choice. Try to mimic Poe's rhythm and pattern of rhyming.

