Character Analysis

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. Match the characteristics provided with each of the characters. Terrified and Passive are used twice.

Nervous | Rich | Calculated | Psychopathic | Vulnerable | Paranoid | Terrified | Terrified | Passive | Passive



NARRATOR



OLD MAN



POLICE OFFICERS

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	*"Object there was none. Passion there was none. I loved the old man."*	A	
2	*"He was still sitting up in the bed listening, just as I have done, night after night, hearkening to the death watches in the wall."*	B	
3	*"...at length a single ray, like the thread of the spider, shot from out the crevice and fell full upon the vulture eye."*	C	
4	*"I then smiled gaily, to find the deed so far done. But, for many minutes, the heart beat on with a muffled sound."*	D	
5	*"I foamed – I raved – I swore! I swung the chair upon which I had been sitting, and grated it upon the boards, but the noise arose over all and continually increased."*	E	
6	*"...they were making a mockery of my horror!"*	F	

Glossary

Name: _____

Date: _____

Acute (adj) sharp or intense

Hearten (v) to make more cheerful or confident

Conceive (v) to form or devise

Film (n) a thin layer of something

Cunning (adj) skilfully deceitful

Profound (adj) great or intense

Sagacious (adj) wise or shrewd

Pitch (n) black liquid made by distilling tar

Awe (n) a deep reverential feeling

Supposition (n) a belief held without proof

In vain (adj) without success

Crevice (n) narrow opening

Marrow (n) substance in the centre of a bone

Gaily (adj) happily

Vex (v) to annoy

Scantling (n) part of a wooden cross section

Suave (adj) charming, confident, elegant

Depute (v) to appoint or instruct

Audacity (n) willingness to take a bold risk

Trifles (n) unimportant things

Gesticulation (n) a dramatic gesture

Derision (n) ridicule or mockery

BEFORE YOU READ

Have you ever been so nervous that you imagined you heard something? What happened?

A narrator insists he is *not mad*. What would make you doubt him?



Quiz

Name: _____

Date: _____

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

1. What is the first piece of evidence the narrator gives to suggest he can't be mad?

(a) His sharp sense of hearing

(b) His love of the old man

(c) His deductive skills

2. Why did the narrator decide to kill the man?

(a) Because he hated his eye

(b) Because he wanted his gold

(c) Because the old man had insulted him

3. At around what time did the narrator put the lantern into the old man's room?

(a) 9pm

(b) Midnight

(c) 2am

4. How long did it take the narrator to place his head completely inside the old man's room?

(a) 4 hours

(b) 1 hour

(c) 20 minutes

5. How many nights did the narrator put his head in the old man's room before he killed him?

(a) 7

(b) 8

(c) 3

6. What object does the narrator compare his slowly moving hand to?

(a) A snail

(b) A watch's minute hand

(c) Paint drying

7. Why did the old man suddenly wake up?

(a) He saw the narrator's head in the room

(b) He had a nightmare

(c) He heard the narrator's thumb slip on the lantern



Quiz

Name: _____

Date: _____

8. What emotions does the narrator say were contained in the old man's groan?

(a) Hysteria and anger

(b) Mortal terror and awe

(c) Pain and grief

9. What does the narrator compare the sound of the beating of the old man's heart to?

(a) A watch enveloped in cotton

(b) The footsteps of an army

(c) A metronome

10. Why did the narrator become anxious about the sound of the old man's heart?

(a) It made him think more clearly of the vulture eye

(b) He was scared a neighbour would hear it

(c) He thought the old man might try to run away

11. Where did the narrator hide the body?

(a) Under the floorboards

(b) In the garden

(c) In the attic

12. Who knocked at the door at four o'clock?

(a) A neighbour

(b) Nobody

(c) The police

13. Why did the narrator begin to feel anxious while talking to the police?

(a) They asked to look under the floorboards

(b) He could hear the beating heart

(c) They started asking more difficult questions

If you read it in the iClassics app

Answer these extra questions about the illustrations and interactions you discover as you read:

- What is written on the frame of the photograph of the old man and the narrator?
- What does the old man do when you tap the illustration?
- What does the vulture eye do when you move the lantern's ray?

Think like a detective

Name: _____

Date: _____

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

1. The narrator says he loved the old man. How can that be true if he kills him? What does this tell you about whether we can trust him?

2. At the end, whose heart is really beating – the old man's or the narrator's? Find one line that supports your view.

3. The police suspect nothing, yet the narrator confesses. Why?

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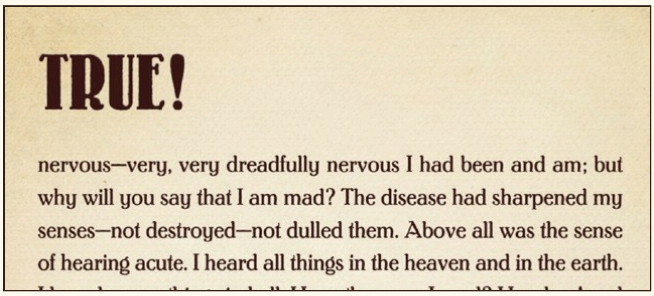
Writing

Name: _____

Date: _____

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

1.



AS OLD MAN

Write a message to your cousin telling him that you have hired a new assistant. Describe why you hired him.

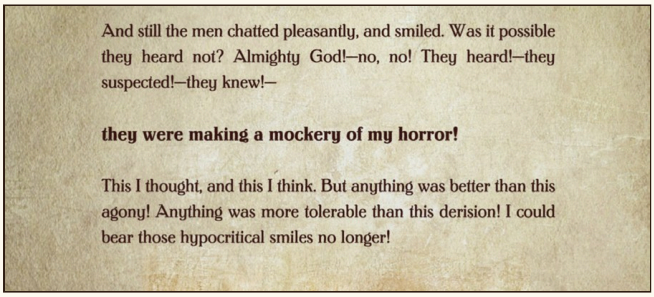
2.



AS OLD MAN

Write another message to your cousin explaining what's happening. Describe the situation and your fear. Suggest what you think the noise might be.

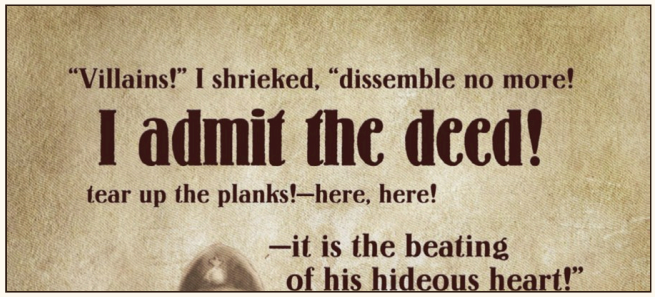
3.



AS ONE OF THE POLICE OFFICERS

Send a message about the narrator to another of the police officers. Describe his change in disposition since you got there and ask if they think it's suspicious.

4.



AS NARRATOR

Write a status explaining that you have just been arrested for murder and quickly summarising what has happened. Try to mimic the style of writing the narrator uses throughout the story.