

FIRST NAME: _____

LAST NAME: _____

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

"THE TELL-TALE HEART"



1. What had the "disease" done to the narrator's senses?
2. How did the narrator feel about the old man?
3. Why did the narrator decide to murder the old man?
4. What examples does the narrator use to tell us he is not "mad"?
5. What is unusual about his telling us he is not "mad"?
6. "I knew what the old man felt, and pitied him, although I chuckled at heart." What did the old man feel, and what does the fact that the narrator "chuckled at heart" tell us about him?
7. What was the narrator's reaction as he gazed upon the old man's vulture eye?
8. For how many nights did the narrator practice getting into the old man's room?
9. How long did it take the narrator to place his head into the door to see the old man?
10. What was the low, dull sound that the narrator heard?
11. As the beating grew louder, what did the narrator worry about?
12. How many times did the old man shriek?
13. How did the narrator actually kill the old man?
14. What did the narrator first do with the corpse?
15. What did the narrator do next with the corpse?
16. Who came knocking at the door at four o'clock?
17. What was the narrator's reaction to the police when they arrived?
18. In his triumph, where did the narrator place his chair while talking to the police?
19. What was it that made the narrator confess to murdering the old man?
20. Which is more important to Poe's purpose: the murder of the old man or the description of the narrator's mental state?
21. By repeating key words and phrases, Poe controls the pace of his story, increases the tension, and emphasizes the madness of the narrator. Give several examples of Poe's use of repetition of words and phrases.
22. Give 3 details, descriptions, words or actions that the author uses to create an atmosphere of horror.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.