Course Title: Edgar Allan Poe – Mysterious Pioneer of Fear

Grade Level: 7th and 8th Grade

Instructor: Michele Mars

Required Book List

1. Great Tales and Poems of Edgar Allan Poe

2. Edgar Allan Poe (Just the Facts Biographies by Tom Streissguth (optional)

3. The Poe Shadow by Matthew Pearl

Course Description

Welcome to Edgar Allan Poe – Pioneer of Fear! In this course for 7th and 8th grade students, students will learn about Edgar Allan Poe’s life and read poetry and tales written by Poe. Students will also read a contemporary novel written about Poe’s death called The Poe Shadow by Matthew Pearl. After reading about Poe, his works and the novel, The Poe Shadow, students will get to write their own mystery or detective story in the style of Poe. I am looking forward to getting to know all of the students in this course and exploring creativity!
Instructors Bio

My name is Michele Mars and I am the Gifted and Talented Coordinator for the School District of Monroe. I also teach art to middle and high school students. I received my Bachelor’s degree from the University of Wisconsin – Whitewater in Art with a minor in Art History. I am originally from the Chicago area and my hobbies are reading and painting urban city murals.

Online Philosophy

I believe students have the right to be who they are and to express their personalities, values, and ideas. Students deserve every opportunity to cultivate their knowledge, thinking skills, and communication skills. I, as a teacher, will encourage this exploration of expression through this online course. Students will do a variety of project based learning activities and students will be required to actively participate in online forums. There will also be a variety of reading and writing assignments that explore and make connections with the topic.

Target Audience

This course is targeted towards gifted and talented 7th and 8th grade students who have the passion and drive to want to gain deeper understanding of Edgar Allan Poe through reading and exploring creativity in writing.

WCATY Benchmarks

Reading 29 (Making Personal Connections) This student easily connected new information into his/her own frame of reference by doing one or more of the following: distinguishing between the voices, tone and/or levels employed by characters/authors, comparing his/her experience to those in the reading, prioritizing content, themes and solutions according to his/her own personal philosophy, predicting the impact of dynamic relationships on the plot, empathizing with characters to uncover subtle motivations.

Writing 35 (Creating a Clear Voice) This student personified tolerance and promoted an awareness of multiple perspectives when articulating his/her own perspective by doing one or more of the following: clearly communicating his/her supported position on a topic, practicing conflict-resolution techniques when collaboratively constructing knowledge, connecting personal philosophies to larger contexts in a clear, yet unthreatening voice that contributes real life experiences and the voices of experts as support, varying language and tone according to the audience, employing reflective thinking to explore universal themes in a fresh, personal way, transforming archetypical characters/perspectives to craft complex, interwoven motivations, relationships, and/or viewpoints that represent both the unity of a chosen culture and the uniqueness the individual.
Big Picture 31 (Examples of Greatness) This student studied the habits successful people use to create internal and external change by doing one or more of the following: noting both common and extraordinary attributes of the leader when compared to others of his/her time period, exploring their creative processes, leadership styles, and/or analytical approaches, reflecting upon key decision points to understand how the leader’s personality emerged, aligning habitual practices with overall perspectives to understand why the person was/was not resilient, analyzing processes used against end results to evaluate the morality of his/her actions, modeling processes which transform internal growth into external change.

Application 38 (Self Discovery and Regulation) This student transformed self discovery into self regulation by doing one or more of the following: seeking a personal motive or pattern honestly thinking through currently held perspectives reflecting and using introspective behaviors to research the topic identifying personal issues, causes of stress, causes of fear, false assumptions, and balancing pride and humility, empathizing and connecting with others to test one’s own perspective managing emotions, resolving conflicts, and coping with challenges, recognizing an epiphany and creating personal change measuring the longevity and impact of that change

Behavior 34 (Team Player) This student shared his/her talents and gave constructive support in a timely fashion to classmates by doing one or more of the following: demonstrating competency, articulating a vision, connecting people together, setting goals and initiating an action plan, modeling fairness through introspective, responsive behavior.

Course Guidelines

Assignments:

All weekly forum and reading assignments will be posted on Sunday morning and will be due by the following Sunday evening. All projects will be due at the face to face meetings. All written assignments will be handed into Moodle. If you have any problems with submitting an assignment into Moodle please let me know.

Communicating with me:

If you wish to discuss something with me or have questions please use the message system. Search for my name, Michele Mars, and send me your message. I will check my messages daily and respond as soon as possible. You can also reach me via e-mail at: michelemars@monroe.k12.wi.us
Behavior in the Forums:

Please be polite when talking to your instructor and others in the online forums. It is fine to have a strong opinion, but make sure you are always conducting yourself with dignity and respecting other people’s views and feelings.

Time Management:

This is very important! It is your job to keep up with all of the forum discussions, reading assignments, and projects. Keep yourself organized and you will be very successful in this course. Look at every week’s readings as soon as possible and see what you will need to read and plan when you will read it. Also, leave time to post and respond to the forums – do not wait until the last minute! Remember each week you will be posting two posts to the forums and responding to two posts. These posts should be fairly substantial. Use full sentences, correct grammar, and try to avoid spelling errors. Each post should be a minimum of 4-5 sentences. Remember, forums are a part of your grade and participation is mandatory for this course!

Evaluation

Students will be evaluated on their project, all forum posts, and all writing assignments.

Reading Selections in the Great Tales and Poems of Edgar Allan Poe book:

- The Tell-Tale Heart
- The Black Cat
- The Masque of the Red Death
- The Fall of the House of Usher
- The Murders in the Rue Morgue
- The Purloined Letter
- The Gold Bug
- The Pit and the Pendulum
- The Raven
- Lenore
- The Bells
- Annabel Lee
- A Dream Within A Dream
- Dream-Land
- Dreams

***All other selections in this book are optional reading.***

Students will have the option to read the entire Just the Facts Biographies Edgar Allan Poe book by Tom Streissguth. This book gives students a great background on Poe’s life and is full of
wonderful pictures. Students that do not purchase this book for the course will be given a list of websites to use with comparable information.

Students will also read the entire The Poe Shadow historical novel by Matthew Pearl. This book is a New York Times Best Seller and will show students the influence of Poe’s style of writing in today’s society.

**Week #1 Tasks**

_____ Introduce yourself to other members of the class using the forum. Include what is your interest in Edgar Allan Poe and his writing? Are you a WCATY veteran or are you new to co-ops? What are your hobbies? Favorite sports? Favorite class in school? Etc.

_____ This week you will choose two forum questions to respond to. There are 4 to choose from. Make sure you read the course guidelines so you are responding/posting to the forums in the correct way.

**Forum Questions Week #1**

1. Describe Poe's relationship with John Allan, his guardian. How do you think their relationship influenced Poe’s life?

2. Edgar Allan Poe is indeed a "man of mystery." There is a mystery that surrounds Poe's grave in Baltimore. What is this mystery? Make some guesses as to who is the "Poe Toaster." Here is a link to visit to help with this question: [http://www.eapoe.org/balt/poegrave.htm](http://www.eapoe.org/balt/poegrave.htm)

3. Many people think that the narrators in Poe's stories reflect his personality. What have you learned about the life of Edgar Allan Poe? Was Poe insane? Do you think that author’s personal lives and personality have a strong connection to their writing style? Why or why not? Give an example to support you argument. Further exploring…are authors like Stephen King or R.L. Stine insane?

4. Poe’s death is also very mysterious. Read the following article on a fairly recent hypothesis of what killed Poe. Your turn to think like a forensic scientist! What other disease/condition could have been the cause of Poe’s demise?

**Researcher Says Rabies, Not Alcoholism, May Have Killed Poe**


Edgar Allan Poe's is among the most spectacular of literary deaths: He was discovered lying outside a pub in Baltimore, trembling and raving. He died three days later in a nearby hospital. Because Poe had been an alcoholic, his death has usually been
attributed to withdrawal from drink. Now a researcher at the University of Maryland Medical Center says it is likely that he was killed by rabies.

Poe slipped into a coma soon after he was admitted to the hospital. He snapped out of it two days later and spoke lucidly to visitors. Then he quickly spiraled downward: Delirium overtook him and he fought with doctors until he had to be restrained.

The fitful course of his condition does not match the progression of alcoholism, according to R. Michael Benitez, an assistant professor of medicine at the medical center. Poe's family also swore that he had been abstinent for half a year.

A patient with rabies suffers from bouts of confusion as well as wild swings in his pulse rate, which Poe's doctor documented.

Hydrophobia is another symptom of rabies, and Poe reportedly could barely swallow the water that was given to him. Poe was a cat lover, and it is possible that one of his pets bit him. "I would say that the conclusion that he did not die from alcohol is very solid," Dr. Benitez says. "All the facts of the case fit the possible diagnosis of rabies, but we will never know for sure." He analyzed the Poe case without knowing who the patient was, as part of a weekly workshop in pathology at the medical center. His findings were published in the September issue of Maryland Medical Journal.

You will also reply to two posts other students leave in the forums.

***Remember these forum postings should be fairly substantial. Use full sentences, correct grammar, and watch for spelling errors or typos. Each post to the forums should be at least 4-5 sentences. You will be graded on the quality of your posts.

Look at the project choices for this course and start working on a project. The project will be due at the second face to face meeting. You will be graded on your project and your presentation of the project to the class. Presentations should be around 5-8 minutes in length for a one person project. Multiple student projects should be longer depending on the project. These projects are intended to extend your understanding of the subject matter and show your creativity.
**Project Choices for Face to Face #2**

Project choices are introduced this week for students that might want to get a start on the project early. These projects will be discussed at face to face #1 and will be due at face to face #2.

**#1 Newspaper Front Page:**

Design the front page of a newspaper that could have been written during Poe’s life. Use a poster board or a large piece of paper to design the front page on. Be creative! Include pictures and headlines about current events of the time. You will be graded on your originality, writing, effort, creativity and craftsmanship. Think about how you will present your project at the first face to face meeting.

**#2 Design a Game**

Design a game based on Poe’s life or stories. Create a game board, pawns, dice, etc. all relating to his life events or tales/poems. This can be created as a 3 dimensional project with paper, cardboard, etc. or you can choose to design the game as a SMART board game using SMART software if your school has access to this. Also, if you have access to other software at home or school you can use that as well. There will be time to play the game with other students at the second face to face meeting. If you choose to create a SMART board game, please let me know so I can make sure we have a SMART board available at the face to face #2 location for your presentation.

**#3 Create a digital movie about one of Poe’s tales.**

Create your own movie about one of the tales that Poe has written. Make sure your movie relays the main idea of the tale to the audience. Use props, setting, and characters to make your movie successful. This can also be a skit of one of the tales or poems performed by a group of WCATY students live at the face to face meeting. Another option would be animation. If you have the ability to create an animated version of one of Poe’s tales that would also be acceptable for this project.

**#4 Design a movie poster for one of Poe’s tales.**

Use a poster board or large paper. Make your poster high quality and stylistic of the theme of the tale. Make sure your poster is designed well and will attract a viewer’s attention. Suggestion: try using Glogster website to create the poster. Your poster needs to have enough information included on it so you can present it to the class.

***Details about the project choices and presentations will be discussed at face to face #1.***
Week #2 Tasks

_____ Students will read 3 tales from the Great Tales and Poems of Edgar Allan Poe book this week. While you are reading the following selections it would be wise to take notes on the following things: vocabulary words, characters, setting, and the theme in each of the stories. Theme is the unifying subject or idea of a story. These notes will help when you are formulating your forum posts for this week.

Some themes we will see in Poe’s writing:

1. The fear of being buried alive or imprisoned
2. The fear of losing someone or something valued
3. The fear of losing one’s mind or self-control
4. A fascination with death
5. A fascination with the dark side of human nature
6. An awareness of over-acute (intense) senses

This week’s reading assignment:

_____ 1. The Tell-Tale Heart  (p. 3-9)
_____ 2. The Black Cat  (p. 19-32)
_____ 3. The Mask of the Red Death  (p. 55-63)

_____ Start reading The Poe Shadow by Matthew Pearl. We will not be discussing the book until week # 6, but it is wise to start reading now! Your goal for this week should be to read Book 1 - October 8, 1849 (pages 3-55)

This week’s writing assignment:

Please complete this assignment in word and submit it into Moodle. Any problems with submitting work please message or e-mail me. (michelemars@monroe.k12.wi.us)

_____ Write a one page continuation of the “Tell Tale Heart.” What happens to the murderer after the officers pull up the wooden floor boards? Does he go to prison? A sanitarium? Does he escape? Any other ideas? Be creative with this continuation and try to match Poe’s way of creating suspense in a story.
This week you will choose two forum questions to respond to. You will also reply to two other posts.

Forum Questions Week #2

1. In “The Tell Tale Heart” how does Poe use images and phrases to create an atmosphere of horror? Why does the killer confess? Does the heartbeat really tell the tale of the murder?
2. Colors play an important role in “The Mask of the Red Death”. Understanding color symbolism in "The Masque of the Red Death" adds insight to the story’s underlying meanings. What do you believe the colors in this story symbolize?
3. How does Poe use foreshadowing in “The Black Cat” to create suspense?
   **foreshadowing**: a literary device in which the author gives clues as to what will happen later
   We know the narrator has done something terrible. The story begins with him awaiting execution in a jail cell.
4. Why do you think the clock has such an effect on the dancers in “The Mask of the Red Death”?

Week #3 Tasks

Students will read four poems and three tales from the Great Tales and Poems of Edgar Allan Poe book.

Decide what the theme is for each of this week’s reading selections.

Reminder of themes we will see in Poe’s writing:

1. The fear of being buried alive or imprisoned
2. The fear of losing someone or something valued
3. The fear of losing one’s mind or self-control
4. A fascination with death
5. A fascination with the dark side of human nature
6. An awareness of over-acute (intense) senses
When you are reading this week think about what the theme is for each reading selection.

This week’s reading assignment:

_____ 1. The Raven p. 301-307
_____ 2. Lenore   p. 308-309
_____ 3. Annabel Lee   p. 319-320
_____ 4. The Fall of the House of Usher   p. 64-89
_____ 5. The Murders in the Rue Morgue   p. 90-136

***For those of you who might not have your books yet, these readings (in full text) can be found on many websites. You can “Google” the title of the reading. You should be able to keep up with the rest of the class this way until your own books arrive.

_____ Continue reading The Poe Shadow by Matthew Pear. Your goal for this week should be to read Book 2- Paris. (If you do not have this book yet you can always catch up with reading it later.)

This week’s writing assignment:

_____ Write a poem using a common theme that is seen in Poe’s work. We looked at examples of common themes last week. This is a great opportunity to be very creative. Write the poem in Word and upload to Moodle.

Forum Questions Week  #3:

_____ This week you will choose two forum questions to respond to. There are 4 to choose from. Make sure you read the course guidelines so you are responding/posting to the forums in the correct way. You will also reply to two other posts.

1. What theme did you choose for Lenore? Explain why you believe this is the theme for this poem. Cite specific examples that back up your answer. Did you like this poem? Why or why not?

2. Poems often touch our feelings by conveying the poet’s mood. After reading the poem, Annabel Lee, what mood does Poe convey? What has happened that causes this mood? As a writer, do you believe mood is a difficult literary device to achieve in your writing? Why or why not?
3. Discuss the imagery used in *The Raven video clip*. Which images do you think visually represent the poem the best? Why? What feelings do they bring out in the viewers? Which images did you not like? Why?

4. In the video clip for the silent film version of The Fall of the House of Usher, what symbolism do you see in the imagery? Point out 3 examples of visual imagery that are symbolic. Explain what you see as symbolic about each of them. Which portion of the clip do you think has the most intense visual meaning?

---

**ELEMENTS OF PLOT TERMS**

All fiction is based on conflict and this conflict is presented in a structured format called PLOT.

Exposition: The introductory material which gives the setting, creates the tone, presents the characters, and presents other facts necessary to understanding the story.

Foreshadowing: The use of hints or clues to suggest what will happen later in the story.

Inciting Force: The event or character that triggers the conflict.

Conflict: The essence of fiction. It creates plot. The conflicts we encounter can usually be identified as one of four kinds. (Man versus...Man, Nature, Society, or Self)

Rising Action: A series of events that builds from the conflict. It begins with the inciting force and ends with the climax.

Crisis: The conflict reaches a turning point. At this point the opposing forces in the story meet and the conflict becomes most intense. The crisis occurs before or at the same time as the climax.

Climax: The climax is the result of the crisis. It is the high point of the story for the reader. Frequently, it is the moment of the highest interest and greatest emotion. The point at which the outcome of the conflict can be predicted.

Falling Action: The events after the climax which close the story.

Resolution (Denouement): Rounds out and concludes the action.

**CHARACTERIZATION**
MAJOR CHARACTERS: Almost always round or three-dimensional characters. They have good and bad qualities. Their goals, ambitions and values change. A round character changes as a result of what happens to him or her. A character who changes inside as a result of what happens to him is referred to in literature as a DYNAMIC character. A dynamic character grows or progresses to a higher level of understanding in the course of the story.

Protagonist: The main character in the story

Antagonist: The character or force that opposes the protagonist.

Foil: A character who provides a contrast to the protagonist.

MINOR CHARACTERS: Almost always flat or two-dimensional characters. They have only one or two striking qualities. Their predominant quality is not balanced by an opposite quality. They are usually all good or all bad. Such characters can be interesting or amusing in their own right, but they lack depth. Flat characters are sometimes referred to as STATIC characters because they do not change in the course of the story.

POINT OF VIEW

First Person: The narrator is a character in the story who can reveal only personal thoughts and feelings and what he or she sees and is told by other characters. He can’t tell us thoughts of other characters.

Third-Person Objective: The narrator is an outsider who can report only what he or she sees and hears. This narrator can tell us what is happening, but he can’t tell us the thoughts of the characters.

Third-Person Limited: The narrator is an outsider who sees into the mind of one of the characters.

Omniscient: The narrator is an all-knowing outsider who can enter the minds of more than one of the characters.

CONFLICT: Conflict is the essence of fiction. It creates plot. The conflicts we encounter can usually be identified as one of four kinds.

Man versus Man: Conflict that pits one person against another.

Man versus Nature: A run-in with the forces of nature. On the one hand, it expresses the insignificance of a single human life in the cosmic scheme of things. On the other hand, it tests the limits of a person’s strength and will to live.
Man versus Society: The values and customs by which everyone else lives are being challenged. The character may come to an untimely end as a result of his or her own convictions. The character may, on the other hand, bring others around to a sympathetic point of view, or it may be decided that society was right after all.

Man versus Self: Internal conflict. Not all conflict involves other people. Sometimes people are their own worst enemies. An internal conflict is a good test of a character’s values. Does he give in to temptation or rise above it? Does he demand the most from himself or settle for something less? Does he even bother to struggle? The internal conflicts of a character and how they are resolved are good clues to the character’s inner strength.

Often, more than one kind of conflict is taking place at the same time. In every case, however, the existence of conflict enhances the reader’s understanding of a character and creates the suspense and interest that make you want to continue reading.

**FORESHADOWING:** An author’s use of hints or clues to suggest events that will occur later in the story. Not all foreshadowing is obvious. Frequently, future events are merely hinted at through dialogue, description, or the attitudes and reactions of the characters. Foreshadowing frequently serves two purposes. It builds suspense by raising questions that encourage the reader to go on and find out more about the event that is being foreshadowed. Foreshadowing is also a means of making a narrative more believable by partially preparing the reader for events which are to follow.

**IRONY:** Irony is the contrast between what is expected or what appears to be and what actually is.

Verbal Irony: The contrast between what is said and what is actually meant.

Irony of Situation: This refers to a happening that is the opposite of what is expected or intended.

Dramatic Irony: This occurs when the audience or reader knows more than the characters know.

Tone: The author’s attitude, stated or implied, toward a subject. Some possible attitudes are pessimism, optimism, earnestness, seriousness, bitterness, humorous, and joyful. An author’s tone can be revealed through choice of words and details.

Mood: The climate of feeling in a literary work. The choice of setting, objects, details, images, and words all contribute towards creating a specific mood. For example, an author may create a mood of mystery around a character or setting but may treat that character or setting in an ironic, serious, or humorous tone.
**SYMBOLISM**: A person, place or object which has a meaning in itself but suggests other meanings as well. Things, characters and actions can be symbols. Anything that suggests a meaning beyond the obvious. Some symbols are conventional, generally meaning the same thing to all readers. For example: bright sunshine symbolizes goodness and water is a symbolic cleanser.

**THEME**: The main idea or underlying meaning of a literary work. A theme may be stated or implied. Theme differs from the subject or topic of a literary work in that it involves a statement or opinion about the topic. Not every literary work has a theme. Themes may be major or minor. A major theme is an idea the author returns to time and again. It becomes one of the most important ideas in the story. Minor themes are ideas that may appear from time to time.

It is important to recognize the difference between the theme of a literary work and the subject of a literary work. The subject is the topic on which an author has chosen to write. The theme, however, makes some statement about or expresses some opinion on that topic. For example, the subject of a story might be war while the theme might be the idea that war is useless.

Four ways in which an author can express themes are as follows:

1. Themes are expressed and emphasized by the way the author makes us feel. By sharing feelings of the main character you also share the ideas that go through his mind.

2. Themes are presented in thoughts and conversations. Authors put words in their character’s mouths only for good reasons. One of these is to develop a story’s themes. The things a person says are much on their mind. Look for thoughts that are repeated throughout the story.

3. Themes are suggested through the characters. The main character usually illustrates the most important theme of the story. A good way to get at this theme is to ask yourself the question, what does the main character learn in the course of the story?

4. The actions or events in the story are used to suggest theme. People naturally express ideas and feelings through their actions. One thing authors think about is what an action will "say". In other words, how will the action express an idea or theme?

**IMAGERY**: Language that appeals to the senses. Descriptions of people or objects stated in terms of our senses.

**FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE**: Whenever you describe something by comparing it with something else, you are using figurative language. Any language that goes beyond the literal meaning of words in order to furnish new effects or fresh insights into an idea or a subject. The most common figures of speech are simile, metaphor, and alliteration.
Simile: A figure of speech which involves a direct comparison between two unlike things, usually with the words like or as. Example: The muscles on his brawny arms are strong as iron bands.

Metaphor: A figure of speech which involves an implied comparison between two relatively unlike things using a form of be. The comparison is not announced by like or as. Example: The road was a ribbon of moonlight.

Alliteration: Repeated consonant sounds occurring at the beginning of words or within words. Alliteration is used to create melody, establish mood, call attention to important words, and point out similarities and contrasts. Example: wide-eyed and wondering while we wait for others to waken.

Personification: A figure of speech which gives the qualities of a person to an animal, an object, or an idea. It is a comparison which the author uses to show something in an entirely new light, to communicate a certain feeling or attitude towards it and to control the way a reader perceives it. Example: a brave handsome brute fell with a creaking rending cry--the author is giving a tree human qualities.

Onomatopoeia: The use of words that mimic sounds. They appeal to our sense of hearing and they help bring a description to life. A string of syllables the author has made up to represent the way a sound really sounds. Example: Caarackle!

Hyperbole: An exaggerated statement used to heighten effect. It is not used to mislead the reader, but to emphasize a point. Example: She’s said so on several million occasions

**Week # 4 Tasks**

**This Week's Reading Assignment:**

In the Great Tales and Poems of Edgar Allan Poe book:

- The Bells  (pages 315-319)
- The Purloined Letter (pages 137-162)

In The Poe Shadow book: Read Book III - Baltimore- 1851

**This Week's Writing Assignment:**
Start writing your mystery or detective story. This story should be a minimum of at least 5 pages, single spaced, Times New Roman 12 point font, 1 inch margins. I realize many of your stories will exceed this limit of five pages and that is fine. This will be your writing assignment for the next five weeks. Take your time. I am looking for quality writing. Develop your characters and setting with many details. I have added a link that might help with mystery or detective story writing. You also have the packet I handed out at face to face #1 that is full of help for writing a mystery. You will not need to submit any writing assignment this week. If you have questions about the story feel free to ask me.

A goal for this week to get started on your mystery/detective story would be develop setting and characters. Who are they key players in your story and what are they like? Who will be the villain? Is there a villain? Where will the story take place? Etc.

Forum Questions:

______This week you will have two forum questions to respond to. There are only two questions this week, so you will be responding to both of them. Make sure you read the course guidelines so you are responding/posting to the forums in the correct way. You will also respond to one post by another student.

1. Compare and contrast the importance of intuition versus the importance of logic in "The Purloined Letter." Do you agree with Dupin that a police investigator should rely as much on intuition and imagination as on logic and science? What do you think was the secret message in the letter?

2. Identify and discuss the literary terms Poe uses in his poem "The Bells". One example is alliteration - there are more! It is your job to find them. Here is a link to a website that lists literary terms and their meanings: http://www.uncp.edu/home/canada/work/allam/general/glossary.htm What do you think is the significance of the different bells in the poem? Did you like this poem? Why or why not?

Week #5 Tasks

This Week's Reading Assignment:

In the Great Tales and Poems of Edgar Allan Poe read:

Ulalume (pages 312-315)

The Cask of Amontillado (pages 10-18)

In The Poe Shadow book read: Book IV - Phantoms Chased for Evermore (pages 175-258)
This Week's Writing Assignment:

Continue working on writing your own detective or mystery story.

Remember: This story should be a minimum of at least 5 pages, single spaced, Times New Roman 12 point font, 1 inch margins. I realize many of your stories will exceed this limit of five pages and that is fine. This will be your writing assignment for the next five weeks. Take your time. I am looking for quality writing. Develop your characters and setting with many details. You will not need to submit any writing assignment this week. If you have questions about the story feel free to ask me.

Your characters and setting should be planned out by this week. So your next goal would be to plan out the events that will occur in your story.

Forum Questions:

_____ This week you will have two forum questions to respond to. Make sure you read the course guidelines so you are responding/posting to the forums in the correct way. You will also respond to one post by another student.

1. Like many of Poe's works, "Ulalume" is filled with references to mythology. Point out one of these references and discuss the mythological meaning/background of the word or phrase. In your opinion, why do you think Poe chose to add these references into his writing?

2. What do you think Fortunato might have done to make Montresor want such a diabolical revenge? What are the moral lessons that one can get from "The Cask of Amontillado"? Explain the meaning of the phrase “A wrong is unredressed when retribution overtakes its redresser”?

Week #6 Tasks

This week’s reading assignment:

Reading assignments in Great Tales and Poems of Edgar Allan Poe:

The Gold Bug (pages 163-211)
To Helen (pages 309-311)

Reading assignment in The Poe Shadow Book V - The Flood (pages 261-364)
Continue working on writing your own detective or mystery story.

Remember: This story should be a minimum of at least 5 pages, single spaced, Times New Roman 12 point font, 1 inch margins. I realize many of your stories will exceed this limit of five pages and that is fine. I am looking for quality writing. Develop your characters and setting with many details. **You will not need to submit any writing assignment this week.** If you have questions about the story feel free to ask me.

You should already have the characters, setting, and main events of the story planned out. Now it is time to start putting it all together. Try to come up with an interesting way to start your story. It is important to get the readers attention and "hook" them in to wanting to read more.

**Forum Questions:**

_____ This week you will respond to two forum questions. Make sure you read the [course guidelines](#) so you are responding/posting to the forums in the correct way. You will also respond to one post by another student.

1. In the poem *To Helen* who do you think Poe is writing to? Does this poem remind you of any other Poe works? Which one/s and why?

2. Imagine you are an important literary critic of the mid 1800's. You are assigned to write a critique of Poe's latest story *The Gold Bug*. Think about the following questions as you write your critique: Would you be recommending the story? Does the story appeal to a wide audience? How does this story compare to other works by Poe?

**Week #7 Tasks**

**This week’s reading assignment:**

In the [Great Tales and Poems of Edgar Allan Poe](#) book:

Ms. Found in a Bottle (pages 212-226)

The Oblong Box  (You will find this reading on the following website link.)

[http://www.eapoe.org/works/tales/oboxa.htm](http://www.eapoe.org/works/tales/oboxa.htm)

**This Week’s Writing Assignment:**

Continue working on writing your own detective or mystery story.
Remember: This story should be a minimum of at least 5 pages, single spaced, Times New Roman 12 point font, 1 inch margins. I realize many of your stories will exceed this limit of five pages and that is fine. I am looking for quality writing. You will not need to submit any writing assignment this week. If you have questions about the story feel free to ask me.

This week you will be focusing on editing your story. You should have the basic outline of the story finished by now. Your goal for this week is to read the story a few times through to find out where improvements can be made.

Forum Question:

This week you will have one forum question to respond to. Make sure you read the course guidelines so you are responding/posting to the forums in the correct way. You will also respond to one other student's post in the forum.

1. In this week's forum you will write a compare and contrast post in which you will discuss the two Poe tales that you were assigned to read for this week's reading assignment. (The Oblong Box and MS. Found in a Bottle) When comparing you point out the similarities in the two stories. When contrasting you point out the differences. This should be a fairly substantial post. I will be looking for a minimum of two well developed paragraphs.

Week #8 Tasks

This week’s reading assignment:

In the Great Tales and Poems of Edgar Allan Poe book:

- Alone (page 343)
- A Descent Into The Maelstrom (pages 227-249)

This week’s writing assignment:

Continue working on writing your own detective or mystery story.

Remember: This story should be a minimum of at least 5 pages, single spaced, Times New Roman 12 point font, 1 inch margins. I realize many of your stories will exceed this limit of five pages and that is fine. I am looking for quality writing. You will not need to submit any writing assignment this week. If you have questions about the story feel free to ask me. At the last face to face meeting you will be exchanging papers with two other students to get
editing help and suggestions. Please submit your self edited copy into Moodle and I will print two copies to bring to class for you.

Forum Questions:

This week you will respond to all three forum questions. You will also respond to one other student’s post. Make sure you read the course guidelines so you are responding/posting to the forums in the correct way.

1. Other than Quentin, most of the book's characters in this 1849 setting do not appreciate or read Edgar Allan Poe's works, and this is part of what provokes Quentin to try to rescue Poe's name. Why do you think Poe means so much to Quentin? Is there any author, from past or present, whom you would "fight" for as much as Quentin does for Poe? This question was directly taken from The Poe Shadow website: http://www.matthewpearl.com/poe/bookclub.html

2. The word "shadow" is used in many different ways in the novel. Quentin tells us, "Poe once wrote in a tale about the conflict between the substance and the shadow inside of us. The substance, what we know we should do, and the shadow, the dangerous and giggling Imp of the Perverse, the dark knowledge of what we must or will do or secretly want. The shadow always prevails." What are possible meanings of the title "The Poe Shadow"? This question was taken directly from The Poe Shadow website: http://www.matthewpearl.com/poe/bookclub.html

3. In your own mystery/detective story writing you should be looking for a way to "hook" your reader early on. The reader should want to find out what happens in your story. This is what many intriguing stories do. How does Poe "hook" his readers in the short story A Descent Into The Maelstrom? Include specific passages from the story to support your answer.

Week #9 Tasks

Congratulations! You made it to the last week! I am so proud of all of the work and dedication to this course that I have seen from all of you during the last nine weeks. Enjoy the last reading assignment and forums. Don't forget to submit your final copy of your paper into Moodle.

This week’s reading assignment:

Reading assignment in the Great Tales and Poems of Edgar Allan Poe book:

The Pit and the Pendulum (pages 250-270)

This week’s writing assignment:
Please submit a final copy of your mystery or detective story by the last day of class.

***This is also the last day to submit any late assignments or reply to any forums.

Forum Question:

_____ This week you will have two forum questions to respond to. Make sure you read the course guidelines so you are responding/posting to the forums in the correct way. You will also reply to one other post.

1. Using direct quotes from *The Pit and the Pendulum* describe how Poe creates and builds the suspense in the story.

2. Matthew Pearl uses real characters from history and places them within a fictional setting. Does he succeed in portraying credible and convincing characters that the reader can believe in and connect with? Would you recommend this book to someone?

**Face to Face #1**

1. Ice Breaker activity
2. Discussion about course requirements
3. View video of *The Murders in the Rue Morgue*
4. Video Activity – Analyzing a Mystery
5. Discussion of project choices (due at face to face #2)
6. Wrap up activity

**Face to Face #2**

1. Project Presentations
2. Poe team activities
3. Poe Quiz Bowl
4. Discussion of Mystery/Detective Story Packets and Assignments
5. Wrap up activity

**Face to Face #3**

1. Peer editing activity
2. Analyzing a poem activity
3. Discussion of final paper requirements
4. Wrap up activity