**Poe-try Assignment**

**The Student Will:**

1. Choose a short story by Edgar Allan Poe. **Read** deeply and **annotate** the selection. (Selection choices are under Resources for printing.)
2. Get into similar-story groups and debrief your short story. Be sure you understand the language devices and content of the story. Ask teacher for help if needed.
3. Create a thesis statement for the analysis of your short story. **WHAT** is the message Poe is communicating? **WHY** is it an important lesson? **HOW** does he use language devices to communicate that message?
4. Conceptualize a poem that communicates this moral or message, which highlights the literary element(s) used by Poe. For example, Poe wrote a story titled “The Oval Portrait” This is the story of a man who weds the love of his life. He is an artist, so he decides to paint her portrait. He becomes so obsessed with the painting that he works on it endlessly, trying to make it perfect. In his obsession, he does not notice that his wife, whom he is ignoring, has died. The overarching message or moral of the story is “if you become obsessed with one thing, the rest of life will pass you by.” In this story he utilizes repetition as a literary device to emphasize his obsession. As a student, you could choose to write a poem about ‘obsession’ utilizing ‘repetition’ as your main device. It does NOT have to be about painting. It could be about anything you want. Obsessing over schoolwork, obsessing over looks, obsessing over love, etc.
5. Your poem must be at least 16 lines long. Consider writing in stanzas - Octaves (8 lines) Sestets (6 lines) Quatrains (4 lines), Couplets (2 lines)
6. Your poem MUST include the following literary devices. Imagery, Simile/Metaphor, Personification, Repetition. You MUST create a key on your final document.
7. Use at least one quote from your short story of choice within your poem - use quotation marks.
8. Type and submit to [tii.com](http://tii.com) by 7AM on due date - See schedule.
9. You MUST have a creative title and you must indicate which short story you are drawing from at the top of your poem.
10. In addition to your poem, you must have a rationale of 150 words minimum. This will include a brief synopsis of the short story, the major theme/purpose, the literary devices used within the story (use specific examples) and an explanation of how you incorporated these elements into your poem.

**OPTIONAL Poetry Art Assignment - Extra Credit - 10 pts.**

**The Student Will:**

1. Use a standard 8.5 x 11 in. white copy paper or if you wish a larger canvas, an 11x14 in. paper to collage your poem from multi-media sources – Newspapers, magazines, (some computer graphics - NOT ALL!), and photographs. You may also incorporate your own drawings, but ALL literary devices must be collaged from a media source.
2. You may use a word processor to type and cut the remainder of the words in your poem.
3. Under Resources.



**Poetry Rubric**

**Rationale: 10 pts.**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/2 – Organization of ideas

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/2 – Clarity of purpose

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/2 – Demonstrates understanding of text

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/2 – Grammatically Sound

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/2 - Typed and submitted to [tii.com](http://tii.com) on time.

**Poetry: 40 pts.**

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/10 – Follows guidelines

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/10 - Demonstrates poetic elements

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/10 – Demonstration of understanding of thematic elements of Poe

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/10 - Demonstration of understanding of style elements of Poe

**Poetry Art - Extra Credit: 10 pts**.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/2.5 – follows directions for creation

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/2.5 – strong literary interpretation

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/2.5 – clear and relevant use of quote in art

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/2.5 – creativity

Sample:

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Brit. Lit. Period 2

December 1, 2016

Simile

Imagery

Repetition

Personification

**“Quote”**

POE-try

Inspired by: “The Imp of the Perverse”

“A Dark Place”

I sometimes go inside to see –

Who else is there directing me?

But when I enter all alone –

I find that there is no one home.

The place is dark, black as my sin –

I see now why ‘good’ never wins.

Within my soul, I have no fight –

The darkness swallows up the light.

The magistrate in my heart is dead –

No one to judge thoughts in my head.

My deeds take flight like a murder of crows –

What I plan, no one knows.

For my thoughts there is no blame,

And for my actions, no hidden shame.

Controlled by, **“some invisible fiend”** –

The Imp has taken over me –

THE IMP HAS TAKEN OVER ME!

Rationale:

This poem was inspired off of the short story “The Imp of the Perverse” by Edgar Allan Poe. The story highlights the relevant theory behind the idea that all humans have an element of darkness in them. It is entirely possible that this “imp” can take over rational judgement. In his story, he uses imagery to appeal to sight and sound with phrases such as, “shriek aloud” and “a rough voice resounded in my ear.” In addition, he uses personification in the line, “some invisible fiend, I thought, struck me with his broad palm upon the back.” In my own poem, I create a person looking introspectively at themselves. While searching for goodness, they realize there is none. Ultimately, the speaker claims that they cannot be blamed, because it is the “Imp’s” fault that they are the way they are. Overall, this poem captures the dark tone of Poe while utilizing the specific strategies of imagery and personification.

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