

9.2.1.4

Lesson 4 Agenda/Overview

Standards: RL.9-10.2, CCRA.R.6, RL.9-10.5, W.9-10.9.a

Text: "The Tell-Tale Heart," paragraphs 4-7

- Introduction to Lesson Agenda
- Homework Accountability
- Paragraphs 4-7 Reading and Discussion
- Quick Write
- Closing

RL.9-10.2 Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped or refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.

CCRA.R.6 Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.

RL.9-10.5 Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure a text, order events within it (e.g., parallel plots), and manipulate time (e.g., pacing, flashbacks) create such effects as mystery, tension, or surprise.

W.9-10.9 Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

- a. Apply *grades 9-10 Reading standards* to literature (e.g., "Analyze how an author draws on and transforms source material in a specific work [e.g., how Shakespeare treats a theme or topic from Ovid or the Bible or how a later author draws on a play by Shakespeare]").

9.2.1.4

Upon the eighth night I was more than usually cautious in opening the door. A watch's minute hand moves more quickly than did mine. Never before that night had I felt the extent of my own powers—of my **sagacity** I could scarcely contain my feelings of triumph. To think that there I was, opening the door, little by little, and he not even to dream of my secret deeds or thoughts. ^{*The narrator wants to laugh about his plan.} I fairly chuckled at the idea; ^{*This night is different in that the old man awakens.} and perhaps he heard me; for he moved on the bed suddenly, as if startled. Now you may think that I drew back—but no. His room was as black as pitch with the thick darkness, (for the shutters were close fastened, through fear of robbers,) and so I knew that he could not see the opening of the door, and I kept pushing it on steadily, ^{! The narrator is showing fearlessness; he wants to kill the old man.} steadily.

I had my head in, and was about to open the lantern, when my thumb slipped upon the tin fastening, and the old man sprang up in bed, crying out—"Who's there?"

I kept quite still and said nothing. ^{*He was waiting a long time to make his next move.} For a whole hour I did not move a muscle, and in the meantime I did not hear him lie down. 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.

Presently I heard a slight groan, and I knew it was the groan of mortal terror. It was not a groan of pain or of grief—oh, no!—it was the low stifled sound that arises from the bottom of the soul when overcharged with awe. I knew the sound well. Many a night, just at midnight, when all the world slept, it has welled up from my own **bosom**, deepening, with its dreadful echo, the terrors that distracted me. ^{? What terrors frighten the narrator?} I say I knew it well. I knew what the old man felt, and pitied him, although I chuckled at heart. I knew that he had been lying awake ever since the first slight noise, when he had turned in the bed. His fears had been ever since growing upon him. He had been trying to fancy them causeless, but could not. ^{? How does the narrator know what the old man is thinking?} He had been saying to himself—"It is nothing but the wind in the chimney—it is only a mouse crossing the floor," or "It is merely a cricket which has made a single chirp." Yes, he had been trying to comfort himself with these **suppositions** but he had found all in vain. All in **vain** because Death, in approaching him had stalked with his black shadow before him, and enveloped the victim. And it was the mournful influence of the **unperceived** shadow that caused him to feel—although he neither saw nor heard—to feel the presence of my head within the room.

9.2.1.4



How does the narrator's point of view continue to develop a central idea?



In groups, read aloud paragraph 4 and answer the following questions:

Why does the narrator experience "feelings of triumph"?

He feels powerful and accomplished because the old man is unaware of his plans: "and he not even to dream of my secret deeds or thoughts."

sagacity = the ability to make good judgments or plan ahead

What does the use of "chuckled" reveal about the narrator's feelings in this paragraph?

The narrator feels good about his methodical planning: "he not even to dream of my secret deeds or thoughts." He is proud of himself for his strategic planning.

How does the narrator respond to the old man's sudden movement?

He continues to push into the old man's room: "Now you may think that I drew back – but no." He continues to open the door "steadily, steadily."

9.2.1.4



In groups, read aloud paragraphs 5-6 and answer the following questions:

How does the narrator respond to the old man "crying out"?

He does not move for "a whole hour."

Why does the narrator not "move a muscle" for a "whole hour"?

He is determined to see the old man's eye; he wants to move forward with his plan.



annotate

Remember your work with RL.9-10.5 in the previous lesson, and your ongoing work with W.9-10.9.a. Discuss and annotate this excerpt for Poe's structural choices concerning manipulation of time.

The narrator does not move for a whole hour and the old man does not lie down: "For a whole hour I did not move a muscle, and in the meantime I did not hear him lie down." The story's action is halted.



In groups, read aloud the first part of paragraph 7 (from "Presently I heard a slight groan, and I knew it was the groan" through "I knew what the old man felt, and pitied him, although I chuckled at heart") and answer the following questions:

9.2.1.4

Why does the narrator pity the old man?

The narrator says he pities the old man because he has felt the same terror "many a night."

Explain the narrator's feelings in the following sentence "I knew what the old man felt, and pitied him, although I chuckled at heart." What is the purpose of the word "although" in this sentence?

It sets up a contrast to reveal the narrator's madness. It shows a disconnect between feeling pity for the old man and laughing at his fear.

Return to your text and annotate for evidence of the narrator's point of view (POV). As you annotate you are beginning to identify evidence to be used in upcoming writing assessments.



In groups, read aloud the second part of paragraph 7 (from "I knew that he had been lying awake ever since" through "-- to feel the presence of my head within the room") and answer the following questions:

What are the old man's *suppositions*?

The reasons for his fear: "He had been saying to himself -- 'It is nothing but the wind in the chimney.'"

Suppositions is close to the word *suppose*, suggesting that the old man's *suppositions* are thoughts that he *supposes* to be true.

Why are the old man's *suppositions* in vain?

The old man's reasons are worthless because the narrator knows that death is coming to the old man.

9.2.1.4



Homework

Continue reading your Accountable Independent Reading text through the lens of the assigned focus standard (RI.9-10.4) and prepare for a 3-5 minute discussion of your text based on that standard.

Preview the following lesson's text by annotating paragraphs 8-13 according to the protocols established in Module 9.1, and using CI, SC, and POV .
