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Lesson 5 Agenda/Overview

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

Text: "The Tell-Tale Heart," paragraphs 8-13

- Introduction to Lesson Agenda
- Homework Accountability
- Paragraphs 8-13 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.

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.

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

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]").

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Talk in pairs about how you applied the focus standard (RL.9-10.4) to your Accountable Independent Reading (AIR) text.



When I had waited a long time, ^{* This repetition shows that Poe wants to draw attention to the narrator's methodical actions.} very patiently, without hearing him lie down, I resolved to open a little—a very, very little crevice in the lantern. ^{This shows again, how slow and meticulous the narrator describes his actions. Everything he does is calculated.} So I opened it—you cannot imagine how stealthily, stealthily—until, at length a simple dim ray, like the thread of the spider, shot from out the crevice and fell full upon the vulture eye. ^{The narrator is angry about the eye being open} ^{! but he was searching for it for seven nights.} It was open—wide, wide open—and I grew furious as I gazed upon it. I saw it with perfect distinctness—all a dull blue, with a hideous veil over it that chilled the very marrow in my bones; ^{The narrator only wants to see the eye; the old man himself doesn't matter. *} but I could see nothing else of the old man's face or person: for I had directed the ray as if by instinct, precisely upon the damned spot.

And have I not told ^{The narrator continues to address the reader as if the reader will empathize with him.} you that what you mistake for madness is but over-acuteness of the sense? — now, I say, there came to my ears a low, dull, quick sound, such as a watch makes when enveloped in cotton. I knew that sound well, too. It was the ^{! The narrator's transition from the eye to the old man's heart, further reveals his obsessive tendencies.} beating of the old man's heart. It increased my fury, as the beating of a drum stimulates the soldier into courage.

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Reread paragraph 8 with your partner.

How does the narrator describe his movements in this paragraph?

He is moving very slowly and carefully: "I resolve to open a little -- a very, very little crevice in the lantern" and "stealthily."

Why does the narrator move in these ways?

He is trying to see the "vulture eye."

What is the effect of Poe's use of repetition in this excerpt? (RL.9-10.5 - annotate using SC)

The repetition shows how slowly and carefully the narrator is moving and builds tension and suspense.



Turn-and-Talk with your partner about the following question:

What do you notice about the development of central idea in this excerpt?

The narrator is still revealing his madness and obsession by showing how patient and slow he is willing to move to get a glimpse of the old man's eye: "So I opened it -- you cannot imagine how stealthily, stealthily."

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Reread paragraphs 9-10 with your partner. Annotate the text for evidence of Poe's structural choices. As you annotate, you are identifying textual evidence to be used in the lesson assessment as well as the Mid-Unit and End-of-Unit Assessments. This focused annotation supports your engagement with W.9-10.9.a, which focuses on the use of textual evidence in writing.

How does the old man's eye affect the narrator?

He grows angry at it, but it also frightens him: "with a hideous veil over it that chilled the very marrow in my bones."

What does the narrator mean when he states that he had directed the ray of light "as if by instinct"?

The narrator is so obsessed with the eye and has been in the old man's room for so many nights, that he naturally shines the light exactly upon the eye: "for I had directed the ray as if by instinct, precisely upon that damned spot."

Where has the narrator previously discussed his *acute* senses? Why does he remind the reader of this in paragraph 10?

In the first paragraph the narrator tells the reader his hearing is heightened: "The disease had sharpened my senses." He reminds the reader because he is beginning to hear the old man's beating heart and wants to remind the reader that he is not mad, his hearing is just heightened: "And have I not told you what you mistake for madness is but over-acuteness of the sense?"

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What action is happening in paragraphs 8, 9, and 10?

The narrator is opening a "little -- a very, very little crevice in the lantern" and shining the light on the old man's eye.

What is the effect of Poe's use of time in paragraphs 8, 9, and 10?

- The story's pacing is slow and halting in paragraphs 9 and 10.
- Poe stops the action to show the narrator's intense reaction to the eye and his new attention on the heart, which creates suspense.



Turn-and-Talk with your partner about the following question:

What do you notice about the development of central idea in this excerpt?

- The narrator mentions again how he is not mad, and that he simply has heightened hearing: "And have I not told you that what you mistake for madness is but over-acuteness of the sense?" He is now hearing the old man's beating heart, which actually shows that the narrator is mad.
- The narrator finally sees his obsession, the eye. He talks about how it makes him "furious" but also frightens him: "chilled the very marrow in my bones."
- The narrator also mentions that he cannot see the "old man's face or person" showing how he only wants to see the eye, because he is so obsessed with the eye alone.



Reread the first part of paragraph 11 ("But even yet I refrained and kept still" through "so strange a noise as this excited me to uncontrollable terror").

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Why does the narrator hold the lantern motionless?

The narrator is obsessed with the eye, and he wants to keep the light on his place of obsession: "I tried how steadily I could maintain the ray upon the eye."

What explanation does the narrator give for his "uncontrollable terror"?

According to the narrator, the old man's beating heart is growing "quicker" and "louder," and it is a strange noise that is causing him "uncontrollable terror."



Reread the second part of paragraph 11 ("Yet, for some minutes longer I refrained and stood still" through "His eye would trouble me no more").

What does the narrator mean when he says the "old man's hour had come!"?

He is going to kill the old man.

Why would the old man's eye no longer "trouble" the narrator?

Because the narrator has made sure the old man is "stone, stone dead." The narrator even places his hand on the old man's heart to ensure there is no "pulsation."

Vexed is used to describe the beating heart. In paragraph 3, he used **vex** to describe the old man's eye.

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Why does he refer to the "precautions" as "wise"?

Because they are carefully executed and he believes no one is going to detect anything: "I then replaced the boards so cleverly, so cunningly, that no human eye -- not even his -- could have detected any thing wrong." The narrator believes that he will not seem mad because he behaves so wisely.

What structural choices is Poe making throughout these paragraphs? (RI.9-10.5)

- In paragraph 8, the narrator's actions are moving slowly as exhibited by the repetition Poe uses.
- In paragraph 9 and 10, Poe stops the action of the story. The narrator is focused on the old man's eye and hearing the old man's beating heart.
- In paragraph 11, the story's action is still moving slowly as the narrator fixates on the old man's eye but continues to hear the beating heart grow "louder" and "quicker." Poe uses punctuation to show the narrator's growing excitement about the beating heart. This increases the suspense of the story, as the narrator grows more upset.
- In paragraphs 12 and 13, the story's action resumes as the narrator calmly explains his plans for concealing the body.



How do Poe's structural choices contribute to the development and refinement of a central idea?

Use the Short Response Checklist and Rubric to guide your written response.

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Revisit your initial annotation of the text made during Lessons 2-5 by adding to/revising annotation. The revised annotation will demonstrate your learning from the previous lessons' close reading, specifically questions remaining/answered, repetition of ideas, connections between parts of the text, and defined vocabulary.

Preview the following lesson's text by annotating paragraphs 14-18.
