

## 9.2.1.6

### Lesson 6 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 14-18 (end of text)

- Introduction to Lesson Agenda
- Homework Accountability
- Paragraphs 14-18 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]").







9.2.1.6

Work with your partner to answer the following questions:

Why does the narrator have a "light heart"?

Because he thinks he has nothing to fear: "for what had I now to fear?" He has effectively cleaned up the murder and buried the body.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

In paragraphs 14 and 15, what is the effect of the narrator's question, "What had I to fear?"

The narrator draws attention to his over-confident attitude that he will get away with the murder of the old man.

What does the narrator do in the "enthusiasm of [his] confidence"?

The narrator leads the police into the old man's chamber, the scene of the murder.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

What is the narrator's "perfect triumph"?

He thinks he is getting away with the murder by fooling the police: "I bade them search --- search well." He is even willing to let the police search the old man's bedroom and rest there: "I brought chairs into the room, and desired them here to rest from their fatigues."

**fatigues** - weariness from bodily or mental exertion

**audacity** - boldness or daring

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

9.2.1.6

What does the narrator do with "wild audacity"?

The narrator moves his seat "upon the very spot beneath which reposed the corpse of the victim." He is sitting on top of the dead body, not afraid of being caught.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



Independently reread paragraph 16. Add to/revise your annotation and elaborate on ideas.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Work with your partner to answer the following questions:

What does the narrator mean by "I found that the noise was not within my ears"?

The narrator now believes that the sound of the heart beating is real and that the others should be able to hear the sound as well.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



9.2.1.6

What is happening to the narrator in this paragraph?

He is becoming physically ill; he pales and experiences a headache. He begins to hear a ringing in his ears and becomes agitated: "I felt myself getting pale and wished them gone."

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Identify a structural choice Poe makes in paragraph 16 and describe the effect of that choice. Annotate that structural choice with SC and explain that choice in the margin of your text.

Poe shows the narrator's growing agitation through his use of repetition when describing the increasing distinctness of the ringing: "The ringing became more distinct: -- It continued and became more distinct."

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



Independently reread paragraphs 17-18. Add to/revise your annotation and elaborate on ideas. Pay attention to the narrator's repetition of the description of the beating heart as "a sound as a watch makes when enveloped in cotton." The narrator first describes the heart this way in paragraph 10. This repetition connects to the narrator's obsession with the eye and the beating heart.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### 9.2.1.6

Work with your partner to answer the following questions:

**Describe the narrator's way of speaking in the beginning of this excerpt.**

The narrator is speaking "more fluently," "with a heightened voice" meaning loudly, "more quickly," and arguing "in a high key."

**vehemently** - emotionally, loudly, and passionately

**gesticulations** - animated or excited gestures (This further illustrates the narrator's erratic behavior.)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**What effect is the "noise" having on the narrator?**

The "noise" is gradually driving the narrator insane and causing him to exhibit erratic behavior. He is arguing and talking "in a high key." He swings a chair and grates "it upon the boards." He is swearing and foaming: "I foamed -- I raved -- I swore!"

**How do the police react to the narrator's behavior?**

The police seem to be unaware of the narrator's disturbing behavior; they are continuing to chat pleasantly and smile: "And still the men chatted pleasantly, and smiled." They seem ignorant that anything is wrong.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Why does the narrator think the police were "making a mockery" of his horror?**

The police remain calm as the narrator grows more agitated. The narrator thinks the police are making fun of him or ridiculing him because, unlike the narrator, the police remain unaware of the beating heart. By contrast, the narrator is "hearing" a beating heart and he does not understand why the police continue to act as if nothing is the matter: "I could bear those hypocritical smiles no longer!" This contrast shows the narrator's madness.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---





