

ENGLISH READERS EDELVIVES



CLASSIC TALES

# Edgar Allan Poe

Oriol Malet



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# before reading

- 1 Edgar Allan Poe used quite flowery language in his tales. Look at these words taken from his stories and **classify** them in the table.

spirit double success evil duty  
impostor mask web damp cough crypt  
soul murder witness argue sailor  
wave deck demon current

Words I know	Words I'm not sure of	Words I don't know

Now look in a dictionary to find out the meaning of the words you didn't know.

\_\_\_\_\_

- 2 Poe is often called the “father of the detective novel”. **Unjumble** the names of these famous detectives.

SHOCKLER HELMOS \_\_\_\_\_

SIMM MEPLAR \_\_\_\_\_

CULHERE POTIRO \_\_\_\_\_

KNOM \_\_\_\_\_

NITNIT \_\_\_\_\_

PINSOCTER GEGDAT \_\_\_\_\_

BYCOSO DOO \_\_\_\_\_

PINSOCTER COUSALEU \_\_\_\_\_

**3** Poe compares the mental process of deduction and analysis with the game of chess. **Test** your knowledge of this ancient game.

Chess was first played in China / India.

The longest game in a tournament lasted 20 hours, 15 minutes / 15 hours, 20 minutes.

The queen / knight can move diagonally, horizontally and vertically.

The computer that beat world champion Gary Kasparov was called Deep Purple / Deep Blue.

Playing chess is good exercise for your leg muscles / brain.

On the 9th June 1970, the first game of chess was played between a man and a monkey / astronauts in space and technicians on Earth.

“Checkmate” comes from the Persian expression “Shah Mat” which means “the King is dead” / “Tea Time”.

**4** Poe was also famous for his tales of mystery and horror. **Find** 11 words related to these frightening stories.

AFRAID      FEAR      HORROR      TERRIFYING  
CHILLING      FRIGHT      SCARY      TERROR  
CREEPY      HORRIFYING      SPOOKY

H	O	R	R	I	F	Y	I	N	G
K	H	A	M	I	P	O	Z	N	N
M	T	Z	T	E	H	E	I	J	I
O	L	H	E	H	D	Y	S	S	L
G	I	R	G	I	F	P	C	U	L
I	C	I	A	I	O	A	C	B	I
T	E	R	R	O	R	R	O	H	H
I	F	R	K	Y	A	F	H	H	C
A	E	Y	I	E	E	T	D	L	X
T	S	H	F	G	F	X	I	I	Q

# before reading

- 5** Can you use 7 of the words from the wordsearch to **fill the gaps** in these sentences?

**Afraid**

**Chilling**

**Creepy**

**Fear**

**Fright**

**Horrifying**

**Horror**

**Scary**

**Spooky**

**Terrifying**

**Terror**

I'm not \_\_\_\_\_ of spiders, but I hate snakes!

He gave me a \_\_\_\_\_ when he jumped out from behind the tree.

The haunted house was dark and \_\_\_\_\_.

She has an irrational \_\_\_\_\_ of clowns.

Have you ever seen "\_\_\_\_\_ Movie"? It's quite funny.

I've never been to the cinema to see a \_\_\_\_\_ film.

Blackbeard the Pirate was known as the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Seven Seas.

- 6** Many of Edgar Allan Poe's stories have been made into films.  
**Correct** these film titles.

The Pit and the Street \_\_\_\_\_

The Tell-Tale Pendulum \_\_\_\_\_

Two Evil Poe \_\_\_\_\_

The Black Eyes \_\_\_\_\_

Morgue Heart \_\_\_\_\_

Tales of Alive \_\_\_\_\_

Buried Cat \_\_\_\_\_

The Cat of Marie Roger \_\_\_\_\_

The Task of the Black Death \_\_\_\_\_

## The Story of William Wilson

- 1 The narrator tells us about his happy memories of his first school. **Compare** his school to your experiences, as in the example.

William Wilson's school was in a big old house, and mine was as well.

The school was surrounded by lots of trees, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The school garden had a high wall around it, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The playground had no trees in it, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

18 or 20 boys slept together in the same room, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Every room in the school was connected to another room, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The Head Teacher hit the boys who broke the rules, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- 2 William Wilson shared many things with the other William Wilson as well as his name. **Write a list** of the things the two boys had in common.

1. They both had the same name.

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

# during reading

- 3 William Wilson plays cards to win money. **Unjumble** these words related to card games and **match** them to their definitions.

GBINLAMG _____	a group of cards with red hearts on them
PCAK _____	a suite (group) of playing cards showing red diamonds
JREOK _____	cards with a pointed black leaf design
HTRAES _____	a family of cards with a rounded black design
DODAMINS _____	risking money in the hope of winning more
SPEADS _____	a playing card with the picture of a clown; used in some games
CULBS _____	the full group of 52 cards for playing card games

- 4 The doppelganger William Wilson made the narrator angry. **Complete** the reasons why.

appeared      hid      prevented      ruined  
stopped      walked      wanted      whispered

He \_\_\_\_\_ to stop the narrator doing what he wanted to do.

He \_\_\_\_\_ and dressed the same and people thought they were brothers.

He \_\_\_\_\_ their name in his ear.

He \_\_\_\_\_ playing cards in a coat and accused the narrator of cheating.

He \_\_\_\_\_ him getting a good job in Rome.

He \_\_\_\_\_ his opportunity of romance in Naples.

He \_\_\_\_\_ him from winning a lot of money in Egypt.

He \_\_\_\_\_ when he was going to seduce the Duke's young wife.

**5** This story is divided into four parts. **Organise** the action into the different parts.

The narrator went to primary school.

He had bad luck everywhere he travelled.

The other boy laughed at him.

The two men fought to the death.

The coincidences between their lives seemed strange and wonderful.

He met a boy with the same name.

At night, the other boy looked terrifyingly like the narrator.

He tricked a man out of all his money.

The narrator went to secondary school.

The narrator left England.

The narrator began to hate his double.

He learned to drink alcohol and play cards.

Part One	Part Two
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• _____</li><li>• _____</li><li>• _____</li><li>• _____</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• _____</li><li>• _____</li><li>• _____</li><li>• _____</li></ul>
Part Three	Part Four
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• _____</li><li>• _____</li><li>• _____</li><li>• _____</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• _____</li><li>• _____</li><li>• _____</li><li>• _____</li></ul>



The Cask of Amontillado

- 1 Here are some facts about Amontillado. Give another example for each fact.

Amontillado is an alcoholic drink - beer is too.

Amontillado is made from grapes

Amontillado is not sweet

Amontillado is a dark orange colour

- 2 Poe’s stories contain many expressions and words taken from other languages. Identify the language and meaning of these examples.

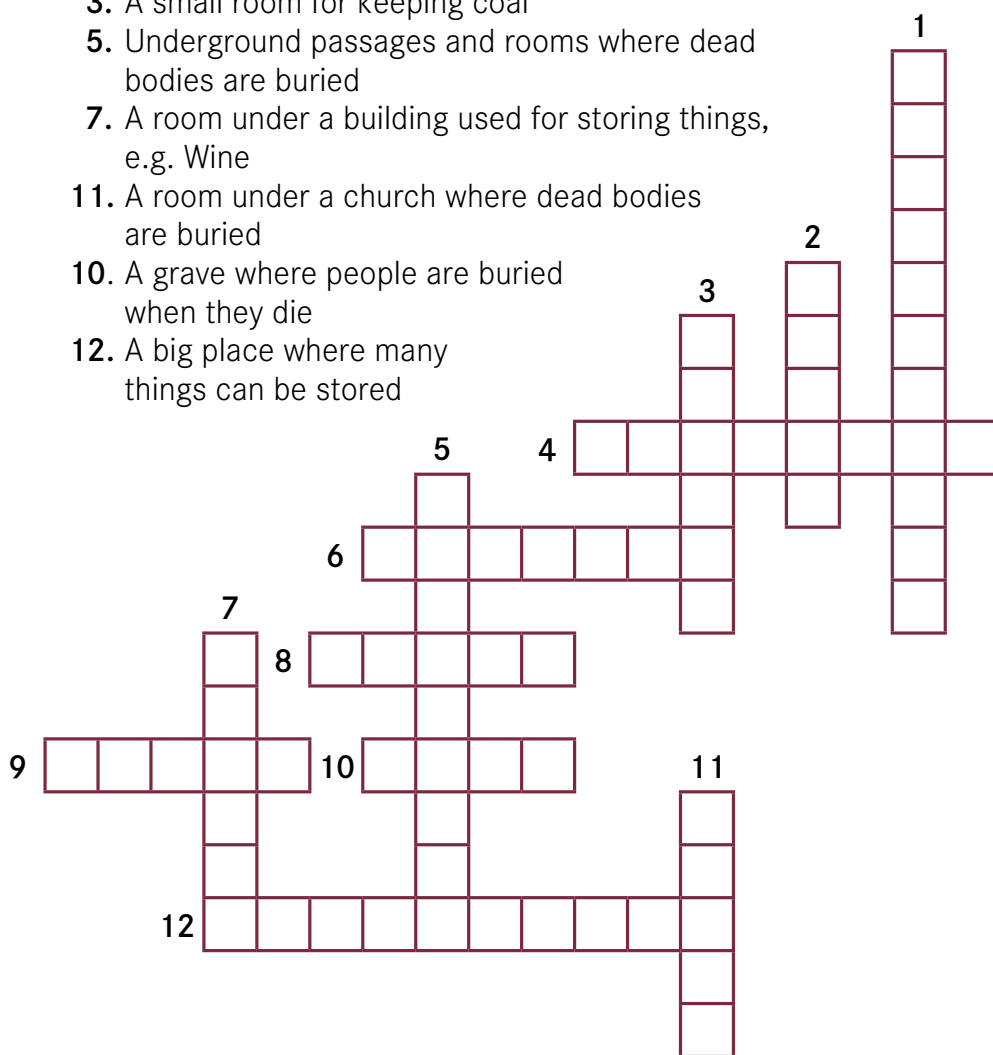
Azure   In pace requiescat   Fortunato   Virtuoso  
Connoisseurship   Nemo me impune lacessit   Palazzo

Word or expression	Language	Meaning
		A big, elegant building
		No one attacks me with impunity
		Rest In Peace
		The blue colour used in heraldry.
		The lucky man
		Knowing about and enjoying something special
		A person who is very good at something

- 3 Montresor leads Fortunato through his underground vaults to find the wine. **Use** the clues to complete the crossword.

### Down

1. Below the surface
2. A small hole in the wall used to keep things in
3. A small room for keeping coal
5. Underground passages and rooms where dead bodies are buried
7. A room under a building used for storing things, e.g. Wine
11. A room under a church where dead bodies are buried
10. A grave where people are buried when they die
12. A big place where many things can be stored



### Across

4. A building built in honour of a famous person
6. A long narrow space leading from one room to another
8. A hole in the ground where a dead person is buried
9. A specially protected room for keeping things safe

The Murders in the Rue Morgue

- 1 The narrator admired his friend’s ability to be creative and rational at the same time. **Reconstruct** Dupin’s reasoning by ordering all the parts of this very long sentence.

The narrator was thinking about / and he’d hurt his ankle on a loose stone / who had become an actor / and had been humiliated, / who had humiliated the actor / because a fruit seller / of the satirical critic / whose spelling had changed, / had pushed into him / but later he saw some regular blocks / and remembered their Greek name / of a noble Greek cosmologist / and he had looked up / and seen the constellation of Orion / Chantilly the shoemaker / which reminded him / which reminded him

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- 2 The police interviewed a lot of witnesses but the information they learned simply confused them more. **Match** the witnesses’ names to their professions.

Adolphe Le Bon	bank clerk
Alberto Montani	banker
Alexandre Etienne	confectioner
Alfonzo Garcio	laundress
Henri Duval	physician
Jules Mignaud	restauranteur
Odenheimer	silver-smith
Paul Dumas	surgeon
Pauline Dubourg	tailor
William Bird	undertaker

- 3 The witnesses had different theories about the voices they heard as they ran up the stairs. **Add** the missing details they gave the police.

Witness's name	Witness's profession	Witness's nationality	Nationality of murderer	Gender of murderer
	gendarme		Spanish	
	silver-smith	French (?)		
Odenheimer			French	Male (?)
William Bird		English		
	undertaker		English	Male (?)
	confectioner	Italian		

- 4 When the police found the two ladies they were terribly injured. **Unjumble** the injuries to complete the descriptions.

The corpse of the young lady was very \_\_\_\_\_, having been forced up the chimney. The throat had several deep \_\_\_\_\_ just below the chin, and a series of livid \_\_\_\_\_ which were evidently the impressions of fingers. The face was terribly discolored, and the eyeballs \_\_\_\_\_. The tongue had been half \_\_\_\_\_ off. Mademoiselle L'Espanaye had been \_\_\_\_\_ to death. The corpse of the mother was horribly \_\_\_\_\_. All the bones of the right leg and arm were broken. The head of the deceased was entirely \_\_\_\_\_ from the body.

- 5 **Draw** a plan of the house and patio showing how the ourang-outang got in to murder the two women. (Don't forget the shutters and the lightning rod!)

Manuscript Found in a Bottle

1 This story includes many nautical terms. **Categorise** the following words.

- Cardinal points
- Compass
- Degree
- Eastwards
- Fathom
- League
- Mile
- Northern
- Scale
- South-west
- Sunset
- Ton

Directions	Measurement

2 **Separate** the twelve different words related to ships in this word-snake.

anchorshipumpooportholesailadde  
rudderopesternavigationchartanker

3 **Find** the correct endings to make 10 sea and weather words.

B	ataract
C	oam
F	empest
H	urf
O	reeze
O	imoom
S	ave
S	cean
T	verboard
W	urricane

4 In his footnote at the end of the tale, Poe refers to the maps of Mercator. **Fill the gaps** in this explanation of the Belgian cartographer's work using the words below.

history   lines   map   sailors   world

Gerardus Mercator wanted his \_\_\_\_\_ to represent the geography of the \_\_\_\_\_ and at the same time to 'correct' the chart so it was more useful to \_\_\_\_\_. This 'correction' showed the sailing routes around the globe as straight \_\_\_\_\_ on the map. Modern knowledge has changed the map's geography, but this was one of the most significant advances in the \_\_\_\_\_ of cartography.

5 Imagine you were on the same terrible ship on the same terrible journey. **Write** a message - not a manuscript - to put in a bottle and throw into the sea (20 words max.)

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# after reading

- 1 Poe liked to make his readers think hard, giving them enigmas and mysteries to work out. Can you **deduce** the answer to this lateral thinking puzzle?

The police have been given anonymous information about a murderer called John who is hiding in a house. The officers go to the house and find a carpenter, a lorry driver, a doctor and a fireman playing cards. They immediately arrest the fireman. How do they know they have the murderer?

**Clue:** The police only know two things - the criminal's name and where he is.

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- 2 Who is being described? **Match** the adjectives to the characters from Poe's tales.

William Wilson (narrator)	wealthy, unimaginative, desperate
William Wilson (double)	shrill, agile, strong
Montresor	sincere, analytical, bizarre
Fortunato	very old, incomprehensible, excited
Dupin	proud, intoxicated, crazy
Ourang-outang	honourable, soft-spoken, elegant
The writer of the manuscript	insulted, knowledgeable, satisfied
The Captain of the black ship	wild, worried, angry

**3** **Put** the great changes and discoveries that happened during Poe's life in chronological order.

1803:	The Erie Canal opened connecting the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean.
1825:	The Texas Revolution in Mexico
1829:	Special Indian territory established in what is now the eastern part of Oklahoma.
1835/6:	Many deaths on the "Trail of Tears" as Cherokees forced to trek to the Indian Territory.
1837:	Dr. William Morton, a Massachusetts dentist, first used anaesthesia for tooth extraction.
1834:	The United States more than doubled in size when it bought France's territories in North America.
1838:	Samuel Morse and his assistant, Alfred Vail, developed the telegraph.
1846:	First locomotive in the United States on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad

**4** Poe included many autobiographical details in his stories. **Identify** the story which includes these facts.

**Celebrated his birthday on 19th January.**

**Used a name which was not his own.**

**Went to school in England.**

**Lost money gambling.**

**Had problems with alcohol.**

**Made an enemy of the other students.**

**Was never as rich as he wanted to be because his businesses failed.**

**Died in mysterious circumstances.**

The story is \_\_\_\_\_



# after reading

5 What details do you remember about the four tales? **Complete** the following table.

	William Wilson	The Cask of Amontillado	Murders in the Rue Morgue	Manuscript Found in a Bottle
Geographical Location				
Historical Period				
Duration of Story				
Happy Ending?				

6 **Categorise** these words from the glossary by their sounds.

amazed      ape      bargain      bruise      cask  
chamber      closet      corpse      deceased      dizzily  
fancy      hatch      knot      raving      mate  
mattress      padlock      rustle      paving stone  
razor      Sybil      tar-brush      whip      whirlpool      wrinkle

Silent letter	“s”		“a”		
	/s/ (as in “sun”)	/z/ (as in “zip”)	/ei/ (as in face)	/a:/ (as in “car”)	/a/ (as in “hat”)



# Edgar Allan Poe

Illustrations **Oriol Malet** / 160 pages / Book Series **Classic Tales**

## Objectives

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- To **enjoy reading and understanding the main ideas** of the stories in English.
- To **share knowledge and experiences** related to literary (and cinema) genres in order to base the stories of Poe on a solid foundation of expectation, interest and motivation.
- To encourage students to **predict and chart** the plot of a story as it unfolds.
- To give students the courage to **be aware of vocabulary** and to take responsibility for **expanding their knowledge**.
- To **work collaboratively to reconstruct a storyline**, using all four skills.

## Word Bank

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### Key Vocabulary

**Nouns:** professions (sailor, tailor, undertaker, etc.); weather (breeze, hurricane, tempest, etc.); games (chess, gambling, joker, etc.)

**Verbs:** related to thinking - to analyse, to deduce; related to injuring - to strangle, to mutilate

**Adjectives:** scary and synonyms; character descriptions

**Relative clauses:** The shoemaker who had become an actor... The Greek name which reminded him... The planet whose spelling had changed...

## Tips and Ideas

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### Before reading

- In a circle discussion, find out what things your students are afraid of - or get them to suggest the typical things people are scared of (spiders, darkness, etc.) if they seem unwilling to speak about their personal experiences.
- Encourage students to suggest the elements found in horror stories - suspense, mystery, strange atmosphere and peculiar characters. Do these stories usually have a happy ending?

### During reading

- As the stories unfold check the students are following the plot by asking simple Yes/No questions and encourage them to ask questions too (let the others give their answers if they can, before you respond).
- Use a storyboard to help the students build up the plot (i.e. a series of squares where the main action can be recorded in pictorial or note form, plus characters, dialogue in speech bubbles and captions with time expressions (three years later; then; suddenly, etc.)

### After reading

- Think, pair, share: group gives pondered feedback on the stories at lower and higher levels.
- Use the storyboard to elicit more details which can be added to aid a more general understanding within the group.
- Smaller groups use the information on the storyboard to retell key parts of the story.

# Teacher support activities

## Great Games: Poe Bingo

Bingo is a game that everyone knows, but just in case, elicit the rules from your students: what do you need to play? how do you play? how do you win? Explain that this game is a little different because their Bingo cards have sentences on them and you (or a volunteer from the group) will read out words – individually or in short sets – and the students have to cross the words off and try to complete whole sentences. When they have one sentence they can call out “House!” and when they have completed all three sentences they can call out “Bingo!”: If they are the first to do so, they are the winner.

### Word Bag:

Your Bingo numbers will be the words and sentences in the Bingo cards below.

### Bingo Cards:

William Wilson	went to a boys' school	in England.
Mademoiselle L'Espanaye	was found in	the chimney.
The vaults	were cold and dark	and full of bones.

Orange hair	was found in	Madame L'Espanaye's hand.
Montresor	took Fortunato into	the vaults.
Edgar Allan Poe	went to a boys' school	in England.

William Wilson	shared his birthday	with his double.
Fortunato was	walled up by	Montresor.
Madame L'Espanaye's body	was found in	the patio.

Fortunato was	interested in	tasting the wine.
Nobody knew	Madame L'Espanaye	very well.
Edgar Allan Poe	wrote	horror stories.

The ourang-outang	could climb	very well.
An unnamed narrator	wrote	the message in a bottle.
In Paris	nobody knew	who the murderer was.

An unnamed narrator	lived with Dupin	in Paris.
The ourang-outang	killed Madame and	Mademoiselle L'Espanaye.
Edgar Allan Poe	shared his birthday	with the William Wilsons.

## CLIL Link: Genres in Writing

### Horror or humour, fact or fiction

Take your class on a visit to the school library and get them to do a “Treasure Hunt” to see how many different types of publication they can find in 3 minutes.

Spread out their findings on a table and ask the students to categorise them – get them to decide on the categories, but these could include factual books (e.g. The Guinness Book of Records), magazines, reference books (e.g. encyclopaedias), autobiographies or biographies, and novels. Ask them what kinds of novels they have found. Elicit their ideas on novel (and film) genres.

Each group should then take one novel genre and see if they can further categorise the sorts of characters, plots and endings they expect to find, and the kind of grammar and vocabulary (formal / informal / colloquial) and style used.

Each group tries to mimic their genre by inventing a short tale using a storyboard (it could be written up later individually) and then presents their new horror/ sci-fi / detective / adventure story etc. to the class.