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American Studies English

Romanticism: **“The Raven”**

1. **Biographical Lens**

One way of analyzing a text is to apply literary criticism. Literary criticism uses different lenses to analyze works of literature from different perspectives. The biographical lens considers a writer’s heritage, experiences, and economic circumstances in order to add layers of meaning that go beyond characterization and plot.

Information about Poe:

Review your notes on Poe, and highlight three pieces of information about Poe that you think will enhance your understanding about this poem. What do you think would have influenced his writing?

1. **Close-Reading**

**Poetic Devices Review**

**Internal Rhyme**: Rhyme that occurs in a single line, not at the ends of two different lines.

**Onomatopoeia**: The use of words that sound like their meanings. Example: buzzing

**Alliteration**: Repetition of initial sounds of words in a row. Example: Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.

**Assonance**: Repetition of internal vowel sounds of words close together in poetry. Example: I made my way to the lake.

1. Analyze the first stanza for poetic conventions (sound devices). Highlight and label each of the sound devices on your poem.
   1. Identify the pattern of internal rhyme Poe establishes in the first stanza.
   2. Identify how Poe uses repetition as part of the rhyme scheme.
   3. Identify onomatopoeia.
   4. Identify alliteration.
   5. Identify assonance.
2. Consider the speaker’s tone toward the raven throughout the poem. How does the speaker’s attitude towards the raven change? Highlight one DQ on your poem to support your response. What do you think is the reason for the speaker’s change in tone?
3. Which biographical elements of Poe’s personal life do you see reflected in the poem?
4. What is the conflict in the poem?
5. List the Dark Romantic qualities of the poem.
6. Write a thematic statement about the poem. Identify two DQs that support your thematic statement. Cite the line(s) correctly for each DQ.
7. **Parodies**

The purpose of a parody is “comic effect or ... ridicule.” We will be viewing a clip from *The Simpsons* that parodies “The Raven”. Remember, in order for a parody to be successful, the reader must know the original text that is being ridiculed. Consider the overly dramatic tone, dark mood, and plot of the poem. Do you think *The Simpsons* parody is effective? Why?