Name:

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American Studies

Date:

“Berenice” by Edgar Allan Poe Study Guide Questions

**Directions:** Read the first half of the story in class (ending with “distortion of personal identity”) and then answer the following questions.

1. Explain the introductory statement: “Misery is manifold”.
2. From what type of lineage does the narrator come? (Paragraph 2)
3. What two important events happened in the library? (Paragraph 3)
4. How did the speaker spend his childhood? (Paragraph 4) How does the answer reflect a characteristic of Dark Romantic Literature?
5. Describe the differences between Berenice and Egaeus, the narrator (Paragraph 5)
6. The idea of “intensity of interest” in “common objects of the universe” reveals what motif of Poe’s works? (Paragraph 6)
7. What does the narrator admit in the following statement: “These reflections partook not of the idiosyncrasy of my disease, and were such as would have occurred under similar circumstances” (Paragraph 10)
8. What sort of person is our narrator Egaeus? Use three adjectives based on the reading!

**Directions:** Now that we’ve read the confusing part of the story together, read the rest on your own and answer the following questions as completely as possible.

1. What does Egaeus claim to feel regarding Berenice? (Paragraph 11)
2. What is the most important word in the following sentence with regards to Dark Romantic themes: “I sat, and sat, as I thought alone, in the inner apartment of the library” (Paragraph 13). **Why?**
3. Berenice appears in front of Egaeus in paragraphs 13 and 14. How are her eyes described in paragraph 14?
4. What new obsession does Egaeus form? (Paragraph 15). Use a DQ to describe his thoughts towards this obsession.
5. What happens to Berenice? (Paragraph 16)
6. What happens to Egaeus in paragraph 19?
7. Describe Egaeus does at the end of paragraph 20.
8. Why do you think Poe interrupts the scene right at the climax and then transports the reader to the library?
9. What does the menial tell Egaeus in paragraph 23?
10. What did Egaeus do, apparently without even realizing it?