Name:

Mr. Haflin

American Studies

Date:

Edgar Allan Poe Background Notes

**General Knowledge**

* Edgar Allan Poe is one of the best-known American authors, but his literary legacy is complex and confusing. Poe pioneered many of the most enduring forms of American popular culture, including the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ story, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ fiction, and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ tale.
* Poe maintained that authors should begin by considering their writing’s effect on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Early Life**

* Poe suffered the early death of his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* His father \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Poe from the family fortune, even though an illegitimate child was provided for.

**Personal Life**

* Poe lacked apparent control over his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* In 1836, at the age of 18, Poe married his 14-year-old cousin \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* After six years of marriage, Virginia suffered a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and never fully recovered. She died in 1847.
* Poe himself died in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, at the age of 40. Like so many of his stories, the cause of death remains a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Poe’s Writing and Beliefs**

* Like most Dark Romantics, Poe did not believe in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of people.
* Poe also believed in the human capacity for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Many of Poe’s stories involve the gothic elements of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Some motifs to consider while reading Poe include:
	+ Death of a Beautiful Woman
	+ Madness
	+ Derangement
	+ Violence
	+ Obsession