

Teacher Notes



Interpreting Edgar Allan Poe's *The Raven*

Activity 3 Exploring the Raven as a Symbol

Activity at a Glance

- ◆ **Subject:** English
- ◆ **Subject Area:** English/Language Arts
- ◆ **Category:** Literary Genres
- ◆ **Topic:** Poetry
- ◆ **Grade Level:** 8 - 10
- ◆ **Prerequisites:** None
- ◆ **Total Teaching Time:** 60 minutes

Materials

- ◆ TI-83 Plus
 - ◆ TI External Keyboard
 - ◆ Computer with Internet access
- From Activity 1:
- ◆ Student Work Sheet: *The Raven* by Edgar Allan Poe

Activity Overview

In this activity, students describe what the raven figure symbolizes in *The Raven* by writing a brief monologue and sharing it with the class. This activity prompts deeper consideration of what Poe was trying to represent in the character (the raven).

Tip

Students should be encouraged to not only ponder deeply what the raven symbolizes, but also to be as creative as possible in the conception and delivery of their monologues. This activity should also prompt discussion and debate amongst students considering many of them are sure to have different responses.

Directions

Before the Activity Begins

Students should have their devices and keyboards ready for typing.

During the Activity

Instruct the students to enter four sentences into the TI-83 Plus describing the raven. From these four sentences, they should write a monologue about the raven using these descriptions.

Students will present their monologue to the class.

After the Activity

Students should be directed to do Internet and library searches for more works by Edgar Allan Poe and works that analyze and critique *The Raven* for a greater appreciation and understanding of the author's style.

Note: A good source is the Web site of The Edgar Allan Poe Society of Baltimore at www.eapoe.org/works/index.htm