Edgar Allan Poe

Unit Test

Multiple Choice (Two points each):
Directions: Answer the questions below by choosing the answer which is most correct.

“The Tell-Tale Heart”

1. What was the relationship between the old man and the narrator?
   a. The narrator hated the man.
   b. The narrator didn’t know the man; he was hired to do the killing.
   c. The narrator loved the man.
   d. They had been business partners, but the old man cheated the narrator, and he wanted to kill him to get even.

2. Why did the narrator decide to murder the old man?
   a. He wanted to steal the old man’s fortune.
   b. He thought he heard the voice of the devil telling him to do it.
   c. He was afraid that the old man would kill him if he had a chance.
   d. He didn’t like the old man’s eye; it reminded him of a vulture.

3. The narrator uses several examples to tell us that he is not mad. Which of the following is NOT one of these examples?
   a. He proceeded wisely and cautiously.
   b. He made sure to wear black clothing.
   c. He was patient when entering the room.
   d. He took great precautions to conceal the body.

4. How does the narrator get rid of the corpse?
   a. He dismembers it and puts it under the floorboards.
   b. He burns it in the furnace.
   c. He stuffs it inside an old trunk.
   d. He leaves it outside for the animals to destroy.
5. What happened at four o’clock?
   a. There was a violent thunderstorm. The narrator thought it was a bad sign.
   b. The housekeeper came upstairs to check on the old man.
   c. The police came in response to a call from a neighbor about a scream.
   d. The narrator repented and turned himself in.

6. What was the narrator’s reaction to seeing the police?
   a. He was afraid and acted nervous. He told them the old man had a contagious disease and couldn’t be seen by anyone.
   b. He was angry. He silently vowed to get rid of the neighbor who called them. He let the police in, but did not talk to them.
   c. He was calm and greeted them warmly. He invited them in to chat.
   d. He was cautious. He pretended he didn’t understand what they wanted. He thought they would leave if he acted slow-witted.

7. What is the climax of the story?
   a. The old man’s death.
   b. The arrival of the police.
   c. Burying the body.
   d. The narrator’s confession.

8. What is most important to Poe’s purpose in writing this short story?
   a. The murder of the old man.
   b. The description of the narrator’s mental state.
   c. The arrival of the police.
   d. The night-time setting.

“The Pit and the Pendulum”

9. What is the first scene the narrator describes?
   a. He describes his arrest, when he was dragged from his home.
   b. He describes the courtroom scene when he was sentenced to death.
   c. He describes his first day of torture.
   d. He describes being rescued.
10. After “swooning” and describing various states of being conscious, where does the narrator finally come to his senses?
   a. He is in a small bedroom in a monastery.
   b. He is in the courtroom again.
   c. He is in his own living room.
   d. He is in a pitch-dark dungeon.

11. In what way did he venture to explore after his first circuit around the dungeon? What problem did he encounter?
   a. He crossed the room in a direct line. He fell on his face and discovered the pit.
   b. He cross the room diagonally and discovered the pendulum.
   c. He crossed the room in a direct line and discovered that the room was covered with nails and broken glass.
   d. He tried climbing one of the walls, but it was too slippery from moss and dampness.

12. What was in the room with the narrator?
   a. There were three other people.
   b. There were snakes.
   c. There were rats.
   d. There were two priests urging him to confess.

13. How did the narrator get free from the table under the pendulum?
   a. He pulled at the ropes and stretched them until they were loose enough for him to move out of the way.
   b. He wiped his food over the parts of the rope he could reach so the rats would eat through them.
   c. He rocked from side to side until he managed to tilt the table on its side. Then the pendulum cut through the ropes and he rolled out of the way.
   d. He pretended to be dead and the captors stopped the pendulum, retracted it, and untied him. When they saw he was still alive, they thought of another torture.
14. After the narrator became free from the table, he was subjected to yet another means of torture. What was it?
   a. The room slowly filled with water, which would eventually drown him.
   b. The walls of the room began to move inward, pushing him towards the pit.
   c. Poisonous snakes and insects were dropped into the room from above.
   d. The only air vent was covered so he would suffocate.

15. One of Poe’s trademarks is that he uses all of his literary tools to produce a single effect for the reader. What is the MAIN effect given by this story?
   a. It is disgust that man could behave so terribly in the name of religion.
   b. The effect is astonishment at the surprise ending.
   c. The feeling of an individual’s powerlessness of his fate.
   d. The effect is the feeling of terror – the fear of inevitable death.

16. One of Poe’s favorite conflicts is that of madness versus reason. Which one wins in the end in this story?
   a. Reason wins.
   b. Madness wins.
   c. Reason and madness balance each other equally.
   d. Poe never resolves the conflict.

“The Cask of Amontillado”

17. Why did Montresor decide to kill Fortunato?
   a. Fortunato had stolen a large sum of money from him and refused to repay it.
   b. Fortunato wanted to marry his sister. Montresor was very possessive and did not want him to marry his sister.
   c. Fortunato had insulted him.
   d. Montresor simply wanted to have the experience of killing someone.

18. Fortunato’s name implies that he is fortunate, although he is really not. What literary form is this?
   a. Alliteration.
   b. Irony.
   c. Foreshadowing.
   d. Exaggeration.
19. How does Montresor insure that Fortunato will come along with him?
   a. He cries and begs, because he knows Fortunato has a soft heart.
   b. He invites a woman in whom Fortunato is interested.
   c. He offers to pay Fortunato a large sum of money.
   d. He insinuates that he will ask someone else, Luchesi, to complete the task if Fortunato is busy. He knows that Fortunato won’t miss a chance to prove his capabilities.

20. What did Montresor do to Fortunato when they reached the recess where the Amontillado was supposed to be kept?
   a. He hit Fortunato over the head and then tied him to a chair.
   b. He tripped Fortunato and chained him to a wall when he fell.
   c. He stabbed Fortunato several times and locked him in a vault.
   d. He followed Fortunato and chained him to the granite wall.

21. Why didn’t Fortunato resist?
   a. He was too frightened.
   b. He wanted to die anyway.
   c. He thought Montresor was just joking.
   d. He thought if he didn’t resist at first, he could catch Montresor by surprise later.

22. How did Montresor kill Fortunato?
   a. He forced him to drink poison.
   b. He beat him to death with some steel from one of the old oak wine barrels.
   c. He bricked him into the recess where there was no hope of escape.
   d. He stabbed him through the heart.

23. What is ironic about the time of the murder?
   a. It happened on the anniversary of the day Fortunato and Montresor first met each other.
   b. It is Carnival time, a happy time.
   c. It is Lent, a holy season in which people repent of and atone for their sins.
   d. It is Fortunato’s birthday.
24. What does the first person narrative technique add to this story?
   a. It helps get the reader involved and it helps create suspense.
   b. It is a change from Poe’s usual third person narrative, so readers who have read many of his stories won’t be bored.
   c. It keeps us focused on the narrator instead of his unfortunate victim.
   d. It is easier to follow the main character’s motives.

**Poetry – “Annabel Lee” and “The Raven” (Two Points Each)**

Directions: Note which poem the following lines are from. Choices: Annabel Lee, Raven, or Neither.

25. Only this and nothing more. _________________________________________________

26. In a kingdom by the sea. ___________________________________________________

27. Fell on the upturned faces of the roses. ______________________________________

28. Nevermore! ______________________________________________________________

29. Perched above a Pallas just above my chamber door. __________________________

30. The ghoul-haunted woodland of Weir. ______________________________________

31. And so, all the night-tide, I lay by the side / Of my darling – my darling – my life and my bride.” _______________________________________________________________

32. Come! Let the burial rite be read – the funeral song be sung! An anthem for the queenliest dead that ever died so young. ______________________________________

**Essay Question (10 points):**

In a separate document, answer ONE of the following in complete sentences, and with at least three paragraphs each:

- Choose two of Poe’s narrators and compare and contrast them.
- Explain why Poe used first person narrators. Use at least three examples and stories to support your essay.
- Poe was fascinated by the ease in which a person could slip from being rational to being irrational. Explain how he uses this conflict using at least two different stories.