

The Raven

Form:

The speaker is half sleeping and reading, trying to forget Lenore, the man goes from sane to madness. There are theories that the Raven could be Lenore. The narrator's mental state is called into question in the first stanza. Due to his tiredness and the late hour, it is certainly possible that he dreamed the whole encounter. Also, take into account the figure of the 'Raven'. These birds are often symbolised with death and it may be that the narrator has just lost someone dear to him and is attempting to revive them through the appearance of this bird.

Structure:

1st - 5th stanza have internal rhymes in lines 1 and 3 but not on the 6th, so could show increasing anger at the absence of none being at the door. The first 2 stanza establishing mood.

Poetic Devices:

- Rhyme
- Repetition = Highlights the narrators obsession with the mysterious Lenore.
- No Enjambment = Shows his disjointed and broken thoughts, maybe highlighted through the shock at seeing the Raven at his chamber door.
- Internal Rhyme = Shows his increasing frustration.

Theme:

Death, Madness, Obsession, Loneliness, Hope

Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary,
Over many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore,
While I nodded, nearly napping, suddenly there came a tapping,
As of some one gently rapping, rapping at my chamber door.
"Tis some visitor," I muttered, "tapping at my chamber door-
Only this, and nothing more."

Ah, distinctly I remember it was in the bleak December,
And each separate dying ember wrought its ghost upon the floor.
Eagerly I wished the morrow;- vainly I had sought to borrow
From my books surcease of sorrow-sorrow for the lost Lenore-
For the rare and radiant maiden whom the angels name Lenore-
Nameless here for evermore.

And the silken, sad, uncertain rustling of each purple curtain
Thrilled me- filled me with fantastic terrors never felt before;

Comment [T1]: The Raven could symbolise hope, as the speaker is hoping it has connection with Lenore or that she might come back to him.

Comment [T2]: Falling asleep while thinking.

Comment [T3]: Similar to Catherine's ghost wanting to be let in with Lockwood in WH.

Comment [T4]: Allegory - The Chamber Could be a sacred place for the speaker and Lenore. Perhaps The Raven is wanting, to the room, so it may have a connection with Lenore. It could be an intimate place the speaker and Lenore share.

Comment [T5]: Mood - Dreamy, as he's half asleep.
Tone - Apprehensive, as he's almost in a dream state

Comment [T6]: Alliteration - Sounds like Lenore is his one beam of light.

Comment [T7]: Trying to forget her.

Comment [T8]: Mood - Bewildered, Haunting and Barren, due to word like "bleak," "dying ember" "ghost upon the floor".
Tone - Reminiscent, as he is remember what happened in the past.

Comment [T9]: Somehow the speaker has made himself sad.

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Page 1 of 2