

the raven first appears he says it's from the "saintly days" and feels "blessed" by the raven's presence in his chamber, showing that at this point the bird's presence does not bother him. He thinks that the raven repeats itself so often because "Nevermore" is the only word it has learned. However, the bird quickly agitates the speaker as he begins questioning what it means when it repeats itself. He starts to think that the bird is telling him that Lenore never "shall press" on his cushions again, meaning that he will never see her. He becomes very hostile once he realises this, and concludes that the raven is from the dead, "Whether Tempter sent, or whether the tempest tossed thee here ashore," suggesting that the bird is there purely to taunt him. By the end of the poem he has concluded that his soul "Shall be lifted – nevermore!" and that he will never be happy, ending the poem on a monotonous note.

We learn that he is heartbroken over his "lost Lenore" who he continues to reference throughout the poem, displaying his grief, as he is very distracted by her. As well as his obsession, he seems to romanticise Lenore by referring to her as a "radiant maiden", perhaps suggesting that he is quite disturbed by her passing – perhaps it was a murder. The repetition of "nothing more" and "nevermore" displays the hopelessness of the narrator throughout the poem that is likely to have stemmed from the loss of Lenore. In other works of Gothic literature, heartbreak can alter one's mental state, suggesting that perhaps the narrator is perhaps imagining the raven speaking. A raven may well have flown into his chamber – or perhaps another black bird such as a crow – but it could be argued that perhaps it is his grief speaking rather than the bird itself. This brings us back to a common theme of insanity in the Gothic genre.

The poem appeals to the senses with aural descriptions, such as "rapping" and "tapping". In this case, the two adjectives rhyme, making the poem quite musical when read aloud. The uniform rhythm and internal rhyme present throughout the poem, such as "Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered weak and weary," again appeals to the senses, because when read aloud it captivates you and is hypnotic, adding to the supernatural elements of the poem. The alliteration of certain words put emphasis on the meaning as well as sounding aurally appealing; "startled at the stillness" grabs the reader's attention abruptly after the sombre ending of the previous paragraph. The dark descriptions and the element of supernatural throughout the poem make the reader feel a sense of fear, which is why so many love the Gothic genre. "Here I opened wide the door; - Darkness there and nothing more" alludes to the supernatural and ghosts, instilling a sense of mystery and suspense – is the narrator in danger? Poe uses imagery to increase the ghostly atmosphere – "deep into that darkness peering" – and uses the personification of the echo as it "murmured" to him, to suggest that perhaps things are alive in the darkness – adding an element of fear to the surroundings.

Question 3 - How does the poetic form influence the gothic effect?

'The Raven' is a ballad of 18 stanzas, which is used to express the emotions of the narrator. It is a musical ballad that is written in trochaic octameter: most lines have sixteen syllables with alternating stressed and unstressed syllables. However, the last line of each stanza is considerably shorter, this may be to emphasise the melancholy tone and what the narrator is saying. Additionally, the poem has an ABCBBB rhyme scheme, this continues throughout the poem giving it a very uniform rhythm, especially