

### Response to Literature Essay

“The Tell Tale Heart” by Edgar Allan Poe is a chilling fictional story about a crazed butler who seeks revenge on the old man for which he works, but blames his revenge on the old man’s eye. You will see the artistry of Poe’s writing through the detail of the murder and the feelings of the crazed butler as he tells the story of how he did it. The fantastic suspense of this story will keep you on the edge of your seat through the whole thing and will make you want more by Edgar Allan Poe. Edgar Allan Poe uses literary elements such as word choice, mood, and passage of time to create an amazing feeling of suspense in his great story “The Tell Tale Heart”.

Throughout the story Poe uses a great word choice to create an ideal sense of suspense, so you will want to keep reading. The way Poe uses his words helps make the story what it is, such as this well worded quote, “The disease had sharpened my senses--not destroyed--not dulled them.” This was a remark made by the butler to try and prove he was cunning and not mad at the beginning of the story. This quote shows the depth of Poe’s words and the fantastic suspense of the story. The word choice here really helps to set in the creepy mood throughout the story.

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The mood of Poe's writing throughout this selection adds to the feeling of suspense, the fascinating horror of the old man and the tension at the end of the story. "Oh God! What could I do? I foamed--I raved--I swore!" This shows the fear of the butler as he thinks he is being discovered. Throughout the story the mood does change and other than fear some moods are fascination, determination, and triumph. This helps give the story its detail and depth, and helps to tie in the other literary elements as well.

Through this story the depiction of passage of time is detailed and works with the other literary elements to help make this story great. This too helps add a more defined feeling of suspense and wonder, without a good passage of time a story such as this one might not have such a strong sense of suspense or horror. "For a whole hour I did not move a muscle, and in the meantime I did not hear him lie down." The butler said this as he sneaks into the old man's room and waits to murder him. This is just one of the many examples of passage of time in the story that really help to magnify the suspense and tension in the story as well as the detail and depth. This example helps to illustrate the sick fascination the butler has with wanting to murder the old man, and get his revenge.

In this selection the butler wants his audience to understand that he was cunning, and that he is not mad. The story proves him wrong, and the literary elements help this story appear real with its meticulous detail. The word choice, mood, and

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passage of time Poe uses are the keys to what makes the oddity of his writing great and fun to read. The word choice is a big part of writing; it helps to create depth in stories and helps to make a story more interesting. The mood of a story helps show feelings and helps to make the characters in the story feel real. And the passage of time helps to give more thrill to the story.

Finally "The Tell Tale Heart" by Edgar Allan Poe is one of the most amazing stories that has lasted more than a century and is still being read today. The moment I read this story I was hooked and excited to read more selections of Edgar Allan Poe that were just as suspenseful and creepy as this one. Though I have listed some of the literary elements there are many more used to help create this story and all specifically thought through to create the suspense of the story. These stories always make me wonder what a troubled soul Poe must have had to write about horror, death, and murder so convincingly to make his name known to everyone to this day.