

The Raven

Edgar Allan Poe, 1845

Read this version of Edgar Allan Poe's "The Raven." Find the definitions for the highlighted words in each stanza. Use clues from the text to help you.

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

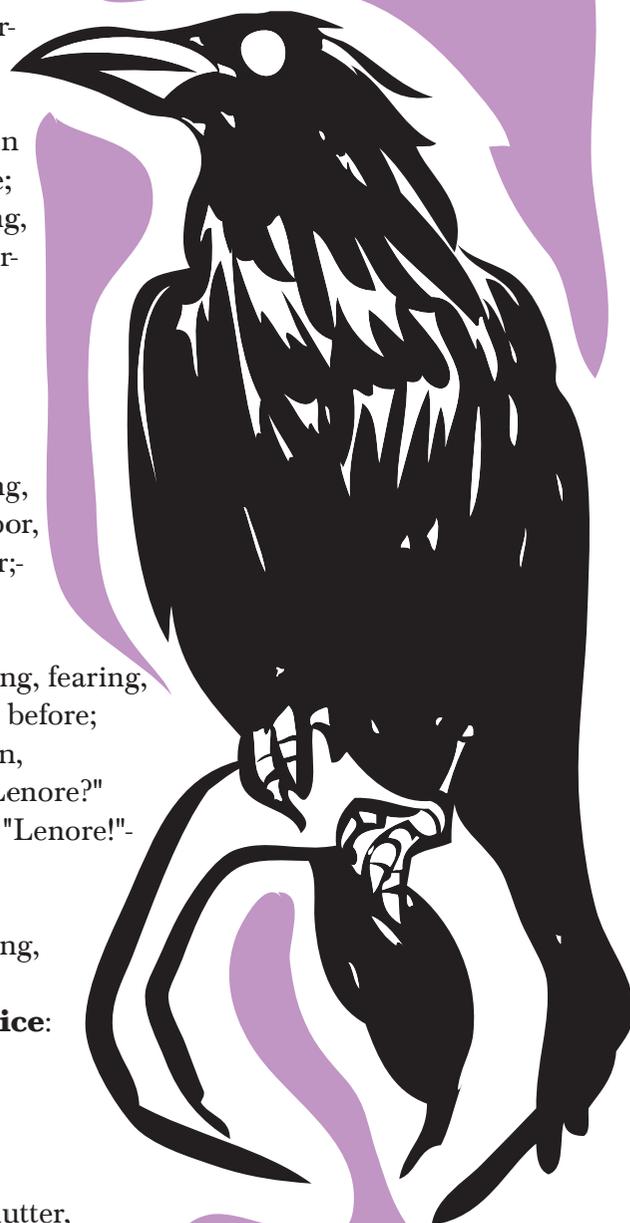
And the silken, sad, uncertain rustling of each purple curtain
Thrilled me- filled me with fantastic terrors never felt before;
So that now, to still the beating of my heart, I stood repeating,
"Tis some visitor **entreating** entrance at my chamber door-
Some late visitor entreating entrance at my chamber door;-
This it is, and nothing more."

Presently my soul grew stronger; hesitating then no longer,
"Sir," said I, "or Madam, truly your forgiveness I **implore**;
But the fact is I was napping, and so gently you came rapping,
And so faintly you came tapping, tapping at my chamber door,
That I wasn't sure I heard you"- here I opened wide the door;-
Darkness there, and nothing more.

Deep into that darkness peering, long I stood there wondering, fearing,
Doubting, dreaming dreams no mortal ever dared to dream before;
But the silence was unbroken, and the stillness gave no token,
And the only word there spoken was the whispered word, "Lenore?"
This I whispered, and an echo **murmured** back the word, "Lenore!"-
Merely this, and nothing more.

Back into the chamber turning, all my soul within me burning,
Soon again I heard a tapping somewhat louder than before.
"Surely," said I, "surely that is something at my window **lattice**:
Let me see, then, what thereat is, and this mystery explore-
Let my heart be still a moment and this mystery explore;-
'Tis the wind and nothing more!"

Open here I flung the shutter, when, with many a flirt and flutter,
In there stepped a **stately** Raven of the saintly days of yore;
Not the least kind gesture made he; not a minute stopped or stayed he;
But, with air of lord or lady, perched above my chamber door-
Perched upon a bust of Pallas just above my chamber door-
Perched, and sat, and nothing more.



Then this ebony bird **beguiling** my sad fancy into smiling,
 By the grave and stern, strange nature of the **countenance** it wore.
 "Though thy crest be shorn and shaven, thou," I said, "art sure no craven—
 Ghostly grim and ancient Raven wandering from the Nightly shore—
 Tell me what thy lordly name is on the Night's Plutonian shore!"
 Quoth the Raven, "Nevermore."

"Prophet!" said I, "thing of evil!—prophet still, if bird or devil!—
 Whether Tempter sent, or whether tempest tossed thee here ashore,
Desolate yet all **undaunted**, on this desert land enchanted—
 On this home by Horror haunted—tell me truly, I implore—
 Is there— is there balm in Gilead?—tell me— tell me, I implore!"
 Quoth the Raven, "Nevermore."

"Be that word our sign in parting, bird or **fiend**," I shrieked, upstarting—
 "Get thee back into the tempest and the Night's Plutonian shore!
 Leave no black **plume** as a token of that lie thy soul hath spoken!
 Leave my loneliness unbroken!—quit the bust above my door!
 Take thy beak from out my heart, and take thy form from off my door!"
 Quoth the Raven, "Nevermore."

And the Raven, never flitting, still is sitting, still is sitting
 On the **pallid** bust of Pallas just above my chamber door;
 And his eyes have all the seeming of a demon's that is dreaming,
 And the lamp-light o'er him streaming throws his shadow on the floor;
 And my soul from out that shadow that lies floating on the floor
 Shall be lifted—nevermore!



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| 1. Pondered: a. ate b. thought about | 8. Beguiling: a. tricking or deceiving b. changing |
| 2. Lore: a. news articles b. legends | 9. Countenance: a. expression b. fancy hat |
| 3. Entreating: a. begging for b. ignoring | 10. Desolate: a. refreshing b. lonely |
| 4. Implore: a. ignore b. beg for | 11. Undaunted: a. excited b. not discouraged |
| 5. Murmured: a. spoke softly b. shouted | 12. Fiend: a. friend b. cruel or wicked person |
| 6. Lattice: a. a child's toy b. a criss-crossed structure | 13. Plume: a. feather b. crumb |
| 7. Stately: a. sloppy b. dignified | 14. Pallid: a. glowing b. pale |

ANSWERS: 1. b 2. b 3. a 4. b 5. a 6. b 7. b 8. a 9. a 10. b 11. b 12. b 13. a 14. b