“The Pit and the Pendulum” by Edgar Allen Poe

Elements of Literature Fourth Course
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1. Reintroduction of Learning Environment
   1. Review September
   2. Discuss October and November
   3. Summative’s
   4. Formative’s

2. The Do Now
   1. Literary Structure of a Short Story
      1. This is a Portion from a Previous Class We Did not Get to Visit Yet
   2. “Pit and Pendulum” as an example
   3. Begin work on Summative Project

3. Google Drive Check List
   1. Introduction of Short Story/ Narrative Summative

4. Excerpt from The Martian by Andy Weir
   1. Stories about Survival

5. Homework
   1. Make plans to finish Summative Paragraph by Friday (10/16).
      1. Final grades will be posted on Genesis this coming weekend. (10/17 - 10/18)
      2. All final drafts must be submitted to rooneylbhs@gmail.com on Google Drive.
Reintroduction to the Learning Environment

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1. September Review
   1. Point of View
   2. Conflict
   3. Literary Structure of a Story

2. Fall Preview
   1. Of Mice and Men
   2. The Perks of Being a Wallflower or The Catcher in the Rye
   3. Reintroduction and Use of Journals
      1. No longer 1-question quizzes
      2. Journal Reviews

3. Summative Details
   1. First Summative Due This Friday, 10/16
      1. Google Drive
      2. rooneylbhs@gmail.com
      3. Final Grades Will Be Posted This Weekend (10/17 - 10/18)
   2. Second Summative Will Be a Excerpt-Based LinkIt! Exam
      1. Preparation for SAT/ ACT
   3. Third Summative Will Be a Short-Story Narrative
      1. One-page short story
      2. Rubric to follow

4. Formative Details
   1. All Formative Opportunities Must Be Submitted to Google Drive
   2. Grades Will Be Reposted This Weekend (10/17 - 10/18)
Edgar Allen Poe’s “The Pit and the Pendulum” is a complicated short story. First off, the reader is tossed into a situation without much of an explanation. So, if one is to power through the beginning of the story, and say, “forget it, I’ll figure it out later,” then the rest of the story is going to pretty much sound like a bunch of nonsense.

The narrator isn’t much help either. Once the story starts rolling, all the narrator does is talk and talk. All his words don’t seem to make much sense, or add up to anything important, especially since the reader isn’t too sure what’s going on in the first place. To add to all that, Poe’s writing style further complicates the plot of the story by going in and out of the narrator’s messed-up mind. In one moment, the reader is learning about the depth of a pit. The next, the reader is learning about the depth of a man’s soul.

Now, since we are aware of how tough this story is, and since we know that English Class is not always about right or wrong answers, let’s try to figure out the story’s literary structure. Even though its many parts are not easy to define and locate, “The Pit and the Pendulum” is a good example because it allows our class to develop a dialogue about what constitutes exposition, rising action, climax, etc.

Please turn to the paragraph that reads “In the confusion attending my fall,” on Pg. 294.

1. Exposition - Initial Set-Up
2. Rising Action - Conflict
3. Climax - Turning Point
4. Falling Action - Ripple Effect
5. Denouement - Resolution
Today, while working on the laptops, check your Genesis score and use the following check list to make sure you have as much work as possible completed.

*(Please do not write on packet.)*

1. “What Happen During the Ice Storm” Summary _____
2. “By the Waters of Babylon” Summary _____
3. “Th Bet” Summary _____
4. “Two Kinds” Summary _____
5. Comparative Essay Rough Draft _____
6. Summer Reading _____
7. First Summative* _____
8. Second Summative* _____

*Not yet graded or posted on Genesis*
I’m pretty much [screwed].
That’s my considered opinion.
[Done for].
Six days into what should be the greatest two months of my life, and it’s turned into a nightmare.
I don’t even know who’ll read this. I guess someone will find it eventually. Maybe a hundred years from now.
For the record . . . I didn’t die on Sol 6. Certainly the rest of the crew thought I did, and I can’t blame them. Maybe there’ll be a day of national mourning for me, and my Wikipedia page will say, “Mark Watney is the only human being to have died on Mars.”
And it’ll be right, probably. ’Cause I’ll surely die here. Just not on Sol 6 when everyone thinks I did.
Let’s see . . . where do I begin?
The Ares Program. Mankind reaching out to Mars to send people to another planet for the very first time and expand the horizons of humanity blah, blah, blah. The Ares 1 crew did their thing and came back heroes. They got the parades and fame and love of the world.
Ares 2 did the same thing, in a different location on Mars. They got a firm handshake and a hot cup of coffee when they got home.
Ares 3. Well, that was my mission. Okay, not mine per se. Commander Lewis was in charge. I was just one of her crew. Actually, I was the very lowest ranked member of the crew. I would only be “in command” of the mission if I were the only remaining person.
What do you know? I’m in command.
I wonder if this log will be recovered before the rest of the crew die of old age. I presume they got back to Earth all right. Guys, if you’re reading this: It wasn’t your fault. You did what you had to do. In your position I would have done the same thing. I don’t blame you, and I’m glad you survived.
I guess I should explain how Mars missions work, for any layman who may be reading this. We got to Earth orbit the normal way, through an ordinary ship to Hermes. All the Ares missions use Hermes to get to and from Mars. It’s really big and cost a lot so NASA built only one.
Homework
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1. Final grades will be posted on Genesis this coming weekend. (10/17 - 10/18)
2. All final drafts must be submitted to rooneylbhs@gmail.com on Google Drive.
4. Contact Mr. Rooney for help.
   1. brooney@longbranch.k12.nj.us
5. If you need help with your writing, please submit drafts to rooneylbhs@gmail.com.