

Before You Read

Annabel Lee

Connect to the Poem

Think about how you deal with difficult experiences in life. What activities help you through tough times?

Quickwrite Freewrite for a few minutes about how writing can help you deal with difficult experiences. How might expressing your feelings be a positive activity?

Build Background

Edgar Allan Poe lived a life as tragic as the lives he describes in some of his famous horror tales and poems. Like the speaker of "Annabel Lee," Poe experienced great loss in his life.

- Poe's mother, Elizabeth Arnold Poe, died of tuberculosis, a disease of the lungs, when he was only two years old. After her death, Poe and his sister, Rosalie, were separated and taken in by two different families.
- Poe's first love, Sarah Elmira Royster, became engaged to another man while Poe was a university student.
- In 1836 Poe married Virginia Clemm, pictured below. His love for her was the one shining light in his life. Many people believe that Poe wrote "Annabel Lee" after Virginia died of tuberculosis.



Meet Edgar Allan Poe



Love and Madness Death played a large part in Edgar Allan Poe's life, his fiction, and his poetry. Poe is best known for his detective stories (a form of fiction he helped originate) and tales of horror and madness. He wished, however, to be remembered for his poetry. "Annabel Lee," one of the poet's most popular romantic poems, was published two days after his early death.

Literary Works Poe's most famous works include his haunting poem, "The Raven," and two terrifying short stories, "The Tell-Tale Heart" and "The Pit and the Pendulum." The poem "Annabel Lee" was published in 1849.

Edgar Allan Poe was born in 1809 and died in 1849.



Literature Online

Author Search For more about Edgar Allan Poe, go to glencoe.com and enter QuickPass code GL29763u3.

Set Purposes for Reading

BQ BIG Question

As you read, ask yourself, how is the speaker's life affected by his love for Annabel Lee?

Literary Elements Rhythm and Meter

Like songs, poems have rhythm. In poetry, **rhythm** is the pattern of beats made by stressed and unstressed syllables. Some poems have a predictable rhythm, called **meter**. To find the meter of a poem, try scanning, or reading the poem to find the pattern of stressed (') and unstressed syllables (~). Read this example from "Annabel Lee":

It was many and many a year ago,
In a kingdom by the sea,

Rhythm and meter are important tools that poets use to convey meaning and mood and to add interest. Together, rhythm and meter may help to show how the speaker of a poem feels. The musical quality that these poetic devices create also makes a poem enjoyable to read. As you read, consider how the rhythm and meter of the poem create a musical effect and help you to understand the meaning of the poem.

Reading Strategy Interpret Imagery

In poetry, **imagery** consists of the "word pictures" that authors use to make their subjects more vivid. Images help readers visualize what is being described. They also often suggest emotions. Images appeal to one or more of the five senses: sight, hearing, touch, taste, or smell.

When you **interpret imagery**, you use your own knowledge and understanding to decide what feelings and ideas the images in a poem suggest. To interpret imagery in a poem, think about

- which of the five senses the image appeals to
- what the poet is really trying to say
- what your own knowledge and experience tell you
- what impression the words leave in your mind

As you read, fill in a chart like the one below.

Image	Senses Image Appeals To	What Image Suggests

Learning Objectives

For pages 412–417

In studying this text, you will focus on the following objectives:

Literary Study: Analyzing meter and rhythm.

Reading: Interpreting imagery.

TRY IT

Interpret Suppose your friend describes a new player on the basketball team as "a sleek cat gliding through the air." What do you know about cats and how they jump that helps you understand your friend's description of the player?

Annabel Lee

Edgar Allan Poe

It was many and many a year ago,
In a kingdom by the sea,
That a maiden there lived whom you may know
By the name of Annabel Lee;—
5 And this maiden she lived with no other thought
Than to love and be loved by me.

She was a child and I was a child,
In this kingdom by the sea,
But we loved with a love that was more than love—
10 I and my Anriabel Lee—
With a love that the wingéd seraphs° of heaven
Coveted° her and me:

And this was the reason that, long ago,
In this kingdom by the sea,
15 A wind blew out of a cloud by night
Chilling my Annabel Lee;
So that her high-born kinsmen came
And bore her away from me,
To shut her up in a sepulchre°
20 In this kingdom by the sea.

The angels, not-half so happy in Heaven,
Went envying her and me:—

11-12 **Seraphs** are high-ranking angels who are said to burn with love for God. Even these angels were jealous of (**coveted**) the love between the speaker and Annabel Lee.

19 A **sepulchre** (sep'əl kər) is a tomb or burial place.

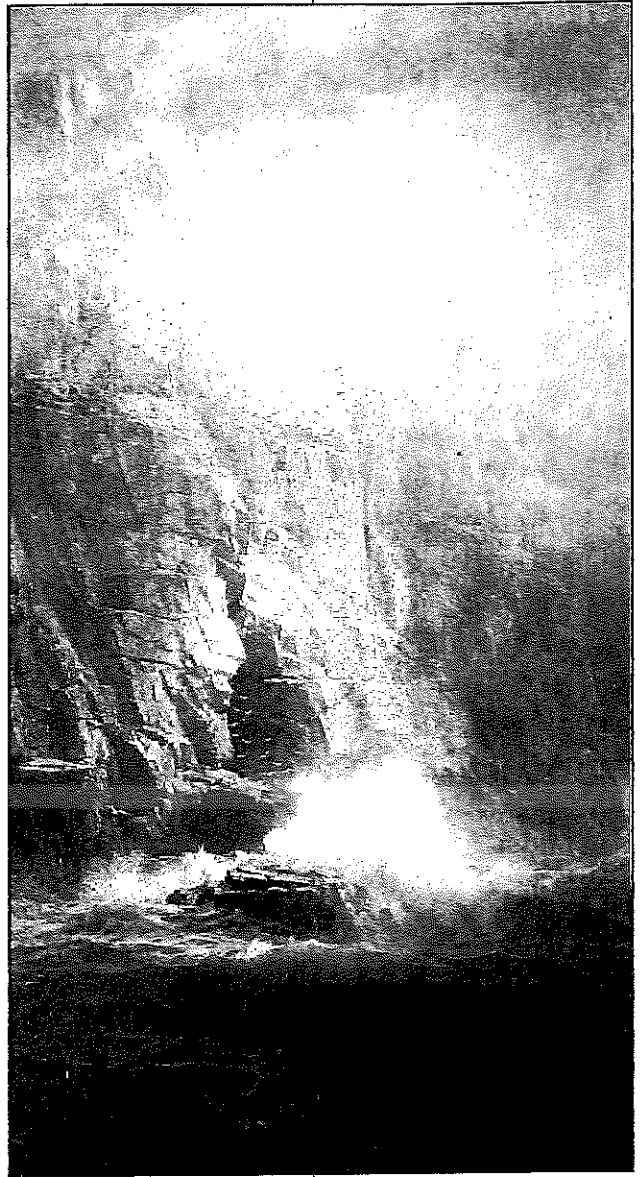
BQ BIG Question

What had once made the speaker happy?

Interpret Imagery To what senses does the image in lines 15 and 16 appeal?

28
12
11/15

Lands End, Cornwall, 1888. William Trost Richards. Oil on canvas, 157.5 x 127 cm. Butler Institute of American Art, Youngtown, OH.



Yes! that was the reason (as all
men know,
In this kingdom by the sea)
25 That the wind came out of the
cloud, chilling
And killing my Annabel Lee.
But our love it was stronger
by far than the love
Of those who were older
than we—
Of many far wiser than we—
30 And neither the angels in
Heaven above,
Nor the demons down under
the sea,
Can ever dissever° my soul
from the soul
Of the beautiful Annabel Lee:—
For the moon never beams without bringing me dreams
35 Of the beautiful Annabel Lee;
And the stars never rise but I see the bright eyes
Of the beautiful Annabel Lee;
And so, all the night-tide, I lie down by the side
Of my darling, my darling, my life and my bride,
40 In her sepulchre there by the sea—
In her tomb by the side of the sea.

Rhythm and Meter
What effect does the
rhythm of these lines have
on the poem?

32 To *dissever* is to separate or split apart.

After You Read

Respond and Think Critically

1. What is the relationship between the speaker and Annabel Lee? What happened to Annabel Lee? Explain. **[Recall]**
2. What do you learn about the speaker of the poem? How did Annabel Lee feel about the speaker? Support your answer with details from the poem. **[Infer]**
3. According to the speaker, why did Annabel Lee experience the fate she did? Explain. **[Paraphrase]**
4. To be *idealized* means "to be made a model of perfection." Do you think that the speaker of the poem has idealized Annabel Lee? Explain. **[Interpret]**
5. How realistic does this poem seem to you? Can you imagine a real-life person experiencing the same thoughts and emotions as does the speaker? Explain. **[Evaluate]**
6. **BQ** **BIG Question** How do you think the speaker of the poem would answer the Big Question? Do you agree with the speaker? Explain why or why not. **[Analyze]**

TIP

Evaluating

Use the questions below to help you answer question 5.

- How has the speaker reacted to the death of Annabel Lee?
- Which events in the poem seem realistic? Which events do not seem realistic?
- How do you react when you face a difficult experience? What helps you cope during hard times?

FOLDABLES Study Organizer

Keep track of your ideas about the **BIG Question** in your unit Foldable.

View the Art

An Artist's Interpretation



Annabel Lee,
c. 1890. James
Abbott McNeill
Whistler. 1890.
Pastel on brown
paper. Freer
Gallery of Art,
Washington, DC.

James Abbott McNeill Whistler created this pastel in 1890 to illustrate "Annabel Lee." Look carefully at the use of color and the setting. What mood does Whistler create?

Group Activity Discuss the following questions with classmates. Use evidence from "Annabel Lee" to support your answers.

1. How accurately does Whistler re-create the setting of the poem?
2. How accurately does Whistler re-create Annabel Lee? Consider her clothing and the amount of detail that you see.
3. How well does Whistler capture the mood of the poem? Explain.

Literary Elements Rhythm and Meter

1. How would you describe the rhythm of the poem? What does the rhythm add to the mood, or feeling, of the poem? Explain.
2. Reread stanzas 4 and 5. In stanza 5, what change do you notice in the rhythm and meter? Why do you think Poe introduced this change? Explain its effect.

Review: Rhyme

As you learned on page 393, **rhyme** is the repetition of sounds at the ends of words that appear close to each other in a poem. When poets use a pattern of rhyme formed by the end rhyme in a poem, they create a **rhyme scheme**. For example, notice the rhyming words in these lines from "Annabel Lee."

It was many and many a year ago,
In a kingdom by the sea,
That a maiden there lived whom you may know
By the name of Annabel Lee;—

The first four lines of stanza one have a rhyme scheme of *abab*.

3. What is the complete rhyme scheme of stanza one?
4. Which words rhyme in stanza two of the poem?
5. What does rhyme add to the poem's effect? Are there ideas that rhyme helps to emphasize? Explain.

Reading Strategy Interpret Imagery

6. List three images in "Annabel Lee." For each image, tell what sense or senses it appeals to. What feelings does each image suggest to you? Explain.
7. One possible theme, or message, of the poem is that love is powerful and everlasting. Identify three images that support this theme. Explain why you think the images suggest that love is powerful.

Academic Vocabulary

In "Annabel Lee," the speaker suffers the **ultimate** loss when Annabel Lee dies.

In the preceding sentence, *ultimate* means "greatest." It can also mean "last" or "final."

Read the following sentence: "The **ultimate** game of the day will decide the winner of the basketball championship for our school league." In what sense is *ultimate* used in this sentence? Explain.



Literature Online

Selection Resources For Selection Quizzes, eFlashcards, and Reading-Writing Connection activities, go to glencoe.com and enter QuickPass code GL29763u3.