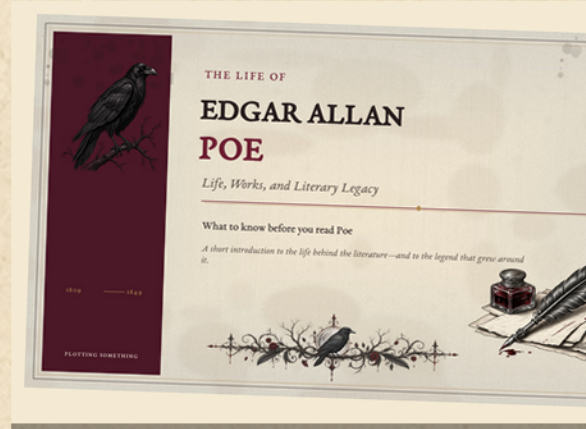




EDGAR ALLAN POE

BACKGROUND POWERPOINT + GUIDED NOTES

A focused introduction to Poe's life, writing, literary influence, and the legend that grew around him — followed by reading lenses students can carry into any Poe text.



INCLUDED

- 12-slide presentation + PDF
- 5-page student packet + PDF
- 4-page teacher guide + complete key
- Editable PowerPoint files

WHAT STUDENTS ACTUALLY NEED TO KNOW

Biography becomes context for the reading — not a trivia list.

Early Life

A childhood shaped by loss, movement, and uncertainty

1809 Born in Boston to actors David Poe Jr. and Elizabeth Arnold Poe.

1811 His father had left the family; his mother died when Poe was almost three.

RICHMOND John and Frances Allan took Poe into their home in Richmond, Virginia.

FAMILY Poe had two siblings, Henry and Rosalie.

***ALLAN** John Allan, the family's new guardian, treated Poe like he used Allan as his middle name.

BOTH OF POE'S PARENTS WORKED IN THE THEATER.

A theatrical family is a promising interest — not a key to every story.

CONTEXT, NOT A DECORATIVE KNOB

PREVIEW

Adapted from Poe's life, works, and literary legacy

How Poe Changed Literature

His influence reaches far beyond "creaky stories."

THE MODERN DETECTIVE STORY

Through C. Auguste Dupin, Poe helped establish the pattern: puzzling crime, brilliant observer, clues hidden in plain sight, solution by reasoning.

PSYCHOLOGICAL HORROR

In many Poe stories, the frightening place is the mind: guilt, obsession, paranoia, uncertainty, and narrators whose accounts cannot fully be trusted.

THE SHORT STORY AS DESIGN

Poe argued that a short work could be constructed so setting, narrative, imagery, sound, pacing, and structure all push toward one overall effect.

PREVIEW

Adapted from Poe's life, works, and literary legacy

How the "Poe Legend" Grew

Poe's reputation after his death was shaped by more than his writing

RUFUS WILMOT GRIEWOLD

A hostile obituary. A damaging memoir. A reputation that lasted.

After Poe died, Griewold published a hostile obituary under the name "Ludwig." He later wrote a memoir that portrayed Poe as unstable, immoral, and self-destructive.

Some of Griewold's claims were exaggerated, distorted, or based on questionable evidence.

HOSTILE SOURCE

LEGEND / EVIDENCE

- 1 The "mad genius" image became stronger after Poe's death.
- 2 Some dramatic stories about his life remain uncertain or unsupported.
- 3 Good literary history separates documented evidence from later repetition.

ASK: WHAT DO WE ACTUALLY KNOW?

PREVIEW

Adapted from Poe's life, works, and literary legacy

Students meet Poe as a working writer, see what he changed in American literature, and learn to separate documented evidence from the darker legend that followed him.

STUDENT PAGES THAT FIT THE LESSON

The same Poe atmosphere carries through the student packet.



GUIDED NOTES

READING LENSES

A GOOD FIT BEFORE:

- The Tell-Tale Heart
- The Black Cat
- The Cask of Amontillado
- The Raven
- The Fall of the House of Usher
- or a larger Poe unit

Grades 8-12 | Approximately 25-35 minutes | Low prep