



“Birthday Ritual a Grave Tradition”

New figure brings tribute to Poe

by Roger J. Hansen

Lesson Concept: Tone in Informative Nonfiction

Essential Question

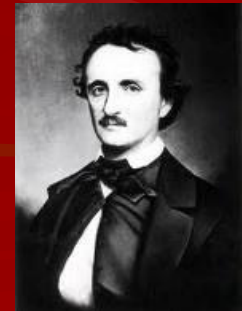
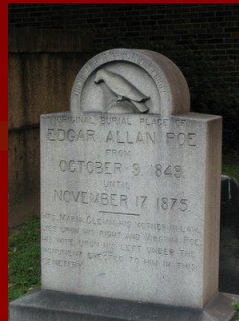
How does a reader analyze the tone of informative nonfiction such as articles or reports?

A reader looks at the language and details the writer uses in his description of the event or incident. Also, the author's purpose may provide clues about the tone.

What's the fascination?

This newspaper article relates the life and death of Edgar Allan Poe.

Why do you think people—even over 150 years later—have such a fascination with Poe? List some reasons in your notes.



Feature Story

Open your literature textbooks to page 635. Let's look at the "Reading for Information" section.

Let's Review: Feature Story

A feature story usually presents factual information about a person, an issue, or an event based on the "Five W's" of news writing: who, what, where, when, and why (and sometimes how).

Reviewing the Paper's Format

The following items are important to the format of a newspaper article:

- **Banner or Flag**: Name of the newspaper usually set off by size, color, special type, or some other design feature
- **Headline**: A short attention-getting title
- **Byline**: The name of the reporter
- **Dateline**: Where a story takes place

Feature Story: Your Turn

Silently on your own, read the informative article on pages 634, 636-637. Then, complete the following activities:

- Complete the “5W and How” graphic organizer. Be sure to summarize the article in the box labeled “Summary Statement.”
- Answer Questions #1, #3, #4, and #5 on page 637.

Now Let's Talk about Tone

What is tone?

A writer's attitude or feelings toward his or her subject

- Tone can be serious or playful, respectful or sarcastic, or light-hearted or somber.
- Readers can identify tone within a text by analyzing the language and details.



Describe the tone of the following passage on page 634:



“A black-clad stranger carried on the half-century tradition here of placing three red roses and something to drink at the grave of Edgar Allan Poe in a pre-dawn visit on Jan. 19.”

Passage establishes a tone of **mystery** and intrigue with details such as “black-clad” and “pre-dawn.”

It's Your Turn to Analyze Tone

In your notes, analyze and describe the tone of two paragraphs in this article.

- Reread the last two paragraphs on page 636 beginning with “The visitor believed...”
- Determine the tone
- Provide evidence of tone

