



“THE BLACK CAT”

Lesson Concept: Mood in Fictional Short
Stories

CHARACTERISTICS OF HORROR TALES

Let's Review From Our Previous Lesson

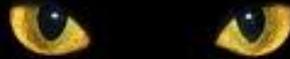
Characters face mysterious forces both within and outside themselves.

Writers explore the conflict in the human soul.

Writers fully understand the frightening power of the unknown and the supernatural.

WORD SPLASH

In your notes, write the words “Superstitions.”
Write down anything that comes to mind about this
topic.



THE BLACK CAT
EDGAR ALLAN POE



VOCABULARY

How many of these words have you actually heard or used?

Aversion

Gallows

Haunt

Intemperate

Loathing

Sentiment



VOCABULARY

Definitions

Aversion—a strong feeling of dislike or opposition

Gallows—a structure used for execution by hanging

Haunt—a location visited frequently/often

Intemperate—unrestrained or indulgent use

Loathing—strong dislike or disgust

Sentiment—attitude, opinion, or tender emotion

STORY PREVIEW

Similar to “The Tell-Tale Heart,” Poe presents the story of a narrator who appears to confuse reality with his imagination—a narrator whose paranoia causes him to take some drastic actions. However, will his confusion force him to commit the unthinkable crime?

THEME OF PERVERSENESS

As discussed in former lessons, words change meaning over time.

In Poe's lifetime, the word "perverse" meant to do something horrible simply because a person could or because a person wanted to attempt to "get away" with their behavior.

Write this idea in your notes, and as you read, make a list of actions performed by the narrator that you know are either wrong or extremely inappropriate. In other words, what does our narrator intentionally do that he knows is a sin or crime?

PRE-READING/LISTENING

For this selection, you will listen to a shortened version of the original tale and view illustrations designed by a modern artist.

Think: How do these illustrations impact your understanding of the story?

POST-READING ACTIVITY

Characteristics of Horror Tales

Does the characteristic “Writers explore the conflict within the human soul” apply to “The Black Cat”?

In your notes, state your opinion on this idea and provide at least two examples from the text to support your thoughts.