

2024 Senior IB Lit 4 Summer Reading

You will read FOUR short stories by Edgar Allan Poe and a background article from the Poetry Foundation. Complete the questions for each text to help you think and write about the short stories analytically. These short stories will serve as the first unit in our IB Lit 4 curriculum, so it is imperative for you to complete the reading and analysis so that you are prepared for class work and discussion. **This will be my first impression of you as a student. Please make sure all your work is original, and that you have NOT used AI in any way to complete this assignment.**

- How you complete this written task is up to you (hand written, typed, double-entry journal, etc.) as long as all the elements are included. Please number and label each section.
- **You should be prepared to turn this assignment in and to start discussion on the stories by the FIRST FRIDAY OF THE SCHOOL YEAR: Friday, August 16th.**
- You can find the links to the stories (and the Poetry Foundation article) on Mrs. Madden’s website: <https://bit.ly/3V5LqtF> You can also get hard copies from Mrs. Madden before the end of the school year or from the James S. Rickards High School front office during the summer. The four short stories for you to read are:
 - “The Fall of the House of Usher”
 - “The Cask of Amontillado”
 - “The Black Cat”
 - “The Tell-Tale Heart”
- Your responses to these questions should be more than simple summary or description.

Part 1: Poetry Foundation – Edgar Allan Poe Background:

1. Visit the [Poetry Foundation](https://bit.ly/4bsSwxW) and read the background article on Edgar Allan Poe. (<https://bit.ly/4bsSwxW>)
2. List FOUR new things you learned about Edgar Allan Poe from this article.
3. You have probably read an Edgar Allan Poe poem or short story before, but after reading this article, explain your expectations and preconceived ideas going in to reading these stories.

Part 2: Story Analysis Questions: Be sure to answer these questions for EACH short story.

1. **Characters:**
 - Who is the main character?
 - How can you characterize them?
 - Do they symbolize anything?
 - What is their purpose/effect on the text?

2. **Conflict:**

- What is the major conflict in the text?
- How does it affect the characters?
- What themes does the conflict help to bring out or explore?

3. **Themes/Rich Ideas:**

- What are 2-3 topics that stand out?
- What do you think the author is saying about each of these topics (what is his commentary on humans and/or society as it relates to these topics)? Write a sentence explaining each topic.

4. **Narration:**

- How is the text narrated?
- What is the point of view – who is telling the story? Are they a trustworthy narrator?
- What is the effect of the chosen narrator?
- Why did the author choose this point of view?

5. **Literary Devices:**

- Identify 3-4 examples of literary devices (metaphors, alliteration, symbols, imagery, juxtaposition, personification, hyperbole, repetition, etc.) – copy those lines.
- For each example, explain their meaning AND explain their effect.

6. **Tone & Mood:** *tone* is the author/narrator's feelings toward a subject and *mood* is the way the audience is made to feel.

- Include a word that describes the tone (try to be specific – stay away from general words like 'good,' 'bad,' 'sad,' etc.). Write a line from the text that supports this tone.
- What is the effect of this tone?
- Include a word that describes the mood (try to be specific – stay away from general words like 'good,' 'bad,' 'sad,' etc.). Write a line from the text that supports this mood.
- What is the effect of this mood?

7. **Common Themes/Rich Ideas:**

- List THREE common themes/rich ideas that you see throughout the four short stories.
- Explain how you see each of these themes expressed similarly or differently in the four stories.

8. **Common Authorial Choices** – an authorial choice is anything the author chooses to do throughout the story to tell the story. Authorial choices can include character, setting, themes, narration, figurative devices, etc.

- List FOUR common authorial choices that you see in all four of the short stories. Think about what techniques you notice that Poe uses in all the stories he writes.
- Explain how each choice is presented in each of the stories.
- What is the implication of Poe's use of these devices?

9. **Personal Reflection:**

- Which story was your favorite? Why?
- Describe aspects of the stories that you enjoyed or didn't enjoy.
- What is your lasting impression of these stories?
- Thinking about the Poetry Foundation article and the stories, do you think Edgar Allan Poe's works are serious literature? Explain your ideas.

- What is a text you read during your junior IB English class that you can compare with Poe's collection of stories?

10. Fields of Inquiry:

- Identify TWO fields of inquiry that you think apply to this short story collection (consider all four stories together)
- Explain how the collection applies to each field of inquiry.

Fields of Inquiry

Culture, Identity, and Community

Students might focus on the way in which texts explore aspects of family, class, race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, gender and sexuality, and the way these impact individuals and societies. They might also focus on issues concerning migration, colonialism and nationalism.

Beliefs, Values, and Education

Students might focus on the way in which texts explore the beliefs and values nurtured in particular societies and the ways they shape individuals, communities and educational systems. They might also explore the tensions that arise when there are conflicts of beliefs and values, and ethics.

Politics, Power, and Justice

Students might focus on the ways in which texts explore aspects of rights and responsibilities, the workings and structures of governments and institutions. They might also investigate hierarchies of power, the distribution of wealth and resources, the limits of justice and the law, equality and inequality, human rights and peace and conflict.

Art, Creativity, and Imagination

Students might focus on the ways in which texts explore aspects of aesthetic inspiration, creation, craft, and beauty. They might also focus on the shaping and challenging of perceptions through art, and the function, value and effects of art in society.

Science, Technology, and The Environment

Students might focus on the ways in which texts explore the relationship between humans and the environment and the implications of technology and media for society. They might also consider the idea of scientific development and progress.