CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

Selected Tales

Edgar Allan Poe · *1839–1846 · Poe's English (Raven Edition, Vols. 1–2)*

The mental features discoursed of as the analytical, are, in themselves, but little susceptible of analysis. We appreciate them only in their effects. So the file opens, with The Murders in the Rue Morgue. This is a selection of six tales from the Raven Edition, Volumes 1–2, Project Gutenberg #2147 and #2148: Rue Morgue, The Purloined Letter, Usher, the Masque, the Cask, and The Tell-Tale Heart. Not the complete tales. For grades 9–12. Tact; no gore spectacle. Quote Poe.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

How should a school read this Poe file as the six-tale Raven selection it is—opened by Rue Morgue on analysis, and later by Usher and the Cask—rather than as the complete tales, and without turning terror into a spectacle?

"The mental features discoursed of as the analytical, are, in themselves, but little susceptible of analysis. We"

The Murders in the Rue Morgue

The hosted file is a selection of six tales from the Raven Edition, Volumes 1 and 2, Project Gutenberg #2147 and #2148: The Murders in the Rue Morgue, The Purloined Letter, The Fall of the House of Usher, The Masque of the Red Death, The Cask of Amontillado, and The Tell-Tale Heart. It is not the complete tales. It opens with Rue Morgue: the mental features discoursed of as the analytical are, in themselves, but little susceptible of analysis; we appreciate them only in their effects. Later, Usher opens on a dull, dark, and soundless day in the autumn of the year, and the Cask with the thousand injuries of Fortunato. Teach the selection honestly, for grades 9–12, with tact. Do not make a spectacle of terror, and do not call this the complete tales. Quote Poe, in this English.

KEY CHARACTERS

The analyst of Rue Morgue
Whose mental features, discoursed of as the analytical, open the first tale

The narrator of Usher
Who comes, on a dull, dark, and soundless autumn day, to the house

The narrator of the Cask, and Fortunato
Whose injuries, and a later vault, must be taught with tact

Edgar Allan Poe
Whose English, in this six-tale Raven selection, is what the map quotes

HOW TO BEGIN THIS SELECTION

> *"The mental features discoursed of as the analytical, are, in themselves, but little susceptible of analysis. We"*
> Rue Morgue

> *"During the whole of a dull, dark, and soundless day in the autumn of the year, when the"*
> Usher

Grades 9–12
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

The Analytical, Little Susceptible

THE MURDERS IN THE RUE MORGUE

The mental features discoursed of as the analytical, are, in themselves, but little susceptible of analysis. The selection opens with a looking at analysis, not with a later famous ending.

- Keep "mental features" and "little susceptible of analysis."
- 9–12. Tact.
- This is the first of six tales.
- Quote Poe.

> *"The mental features discoursed of as the analytical, are, in themselves, but little susceptible of analysis. We"*
> The Murders in the Rue Morgue

02

Only in Their Effects

THE MURDERS IN THE RUE MORGUE

We appreciate them only in their effects. The opening stays with what analysis does, and how it is known.

- Keep "only in their effects."
- 9–12.
- A first tale, not the whole file.
- No gore spectacle later in the story.

> *"We appreciate them only in their effects. We know"*
> The Murders in the Rue Morgue

03

A Dull, Dark, and Soundless Day

THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF USHER

During the whole of a dull, dark, and soundless day in the autumn of the year, when the clouds hung oppressively low in the heavens. Usher is later in the file; quote its own opening when you come to it.

- Keep "dull, dark, and soundless day."
- 9–12. Tact.
- Usher is one of six, not the whole.
- Quote this English.

> *"During the whole of a dull, dark, and soundless day in the autumn of the year, when the"*
> The Fall of the House of Usher

04

The Thousand Injuries of Fortunato

THE CASK OF AMONTILLADO

The thousand injuries of Fortunato I had borne as I best could, but when he ventured upon insult I vowed revenge. The Cask is later in the file. Teach it with tact; do not make a spectacle of the vaults.

- Keep "thousand injuries of Fortunato."
- 9–12. Tact; no gore spectacle.
- One of six tales.
- Quote Poe, not a later shorthand only.

> *"The thousand injuries of Fortunato I had borne as I best could; but"*
> The Cask of Amontillado

05

Six Tales, Not the Complete Tales

THE EDITION

Project Gutenberg #2147 and #2148, Raven Edition, Volumes 1–2, as hosted here, hold six tales only. Name them. For grades 9–12. Tact throughout; no gore spectacle on the map. The Purloined Letter, the Masque, and the Tell-Tale Heart belong to the same selection; one map cannot teach all six at equal length. Quote Poe.

- Name the six tales, and that this is a selection.
- 9–12. Tact.
- Not the complete tales.
- Quote this English.

> *"The mental features discoursed of as the analytical, are, in themselves, but little susceptible of analysis. We"*
> The Murders in the Rue Morgue

Analysis, known in its effects

A six-tale selection, honestly named

A dull autumn day, later in the file

Injuries, and a vow, taught with tact

Terror without spectacle

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 9–12

1. This file is a selection of six tales, not the complete tales: Rue Morgue, The Purloined Letter, Usher, the Masque, the Cask, and The Tell-Tale Heart. Raven Edition, PG #2147 and #2148.
2. It opens with Rue Morgue on analysis: mental features little susceptible of analysis, known only in their effects.
3. Usher: a dull, dark, and soundless day in the autumn of the year. The Cask: the thousand injuries of Fortunato. Quote each tale's own opening.
4. For grades 9–12. Tact; no gore spectacle. One map cannot teach all six at equal length. Quote Poe.

Quotations are verbatim from the Poe's English (Raven Edition, Vols. 1–2), Project Gutenberg eBooks #2147 and #2148, The Works of Edgar Allan Poe, Raven Edition, Vols. 1–2, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/poe-tales/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.