CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

The Raven

Edgar Allan Poe · *1845 · English original, as hosted*

Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary, over many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore. So this complete narrative poem begins. Later the angels name Lenore, and the bird speaks: Quoth the Raven, “Nevermore.” Edgar Allan Poe, 1845, complete as hosted. For grades 6–12. Gravity in grief; no spectacle, and no cheap fright. The six-tale Poe map is a different file. Quote this wording, including “visiter” if you quote that line, as this file prints it.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

How should a school read this file as Poe’s complete narrative poem of a midnight visitor and a single word, Nevermore, rather than as a later performance or as the six-tale Poe collection?

“Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary, Over many a”

Opening

Edgar Allan Poe’s The Raven, 1845, complete as hosted. It opens: Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary, over many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore. The angels name Lenore. The bird speaks: Quoth the Raven, “Nevermore.” For grades 6–12. Gravity in grief; no spectacle, and no cheap fright. This is not the six-tale Poe map. Quote this wording.

KEY CHARACTERS

The speaker
Who ponders, weak and weary, over a volume of forgotten lore, at a midnight dreary

Lenore
The rare and radiant maiden whom the angels name

The Raven
Who answers, Nevermore

HOW TO BEGIN THE RAVEN

> *“Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary, Over many a”*
> Opening

> *“Quoth the Raven, “Nevermore.””*
> The bird’s word

Grades 6–12
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

Once upon a Midnight Dreary

OPENING

Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary. The poem begins at midnight, with a mind already weary.

- Keep “midnight dreary” and “weak and weary.”
- 6–12.
- The opening, not a later film only.
- Quote this wording.

> *“Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary, Over many a”*
> Opening

02

A Volume of Forgotten Lore

OPENING

Over many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore. The pondering is already a reading.

- Keep “quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore.”
- 6–12.
- Before the tapping.
- Quote this wording.

> *“Over many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore— While I”*
> Opening

03

Whom the Angels Name Lenore

LENORE

For the rare and radiant maiden whom the angels name Lenore. A name is given as the angels name her, and as nameless here.

- Keep “rare and radiant maiden” and “Lenore.”
- 6–12. Gravity in grief; no spectacle.
- One name, at the heart of the poem.
- Quote this wording.

> *“For the rare and radiant maiden whom the angels name Lenore— Nameless”*
> Lenore

04

Quoth the Raven, Nevermore

THE BIRD’S WORD

Quoth the Raven, “Nevermore.” The answer is one word, repeated. Teach the word; do not turn it into a joke only.

- Keep “Quoth the Raven,” and the quotation marks as this file prints them.
- 6–12. Gravity, not a cheap fright.
- A complete short poem.
- Quote this wording.

> *“Quoth the Raven, “Nevermore.””*
> The bird’s word

05

Poe, 1845, Complete as Hosted

THE EDITION

Edgar Allan Poe, 1845, complete as hosted. For grades 6–12. Gravity in grief; no spectacle, and no cheap fright. This is not the six-tale Poe collection already mapped. Quote this wording, including “visiter” if you quote that line. One short complete poem; do not invent what the file does not say.

- Name Poe, 1845, and this file, not the six-tale map.
- 6–12. Gravity, no cheap fright.
- Midnight, Lenore, and Nevermore.
- Quote this English.

> *“Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary, Over many a”*
> Opening

A midnight, already weary | A volume of forgotten lore | A name the angels use | A single word, repeated | Grief, without a cheap fright

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 6–12

1. It opens: “Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary, over many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore.”
2. “For the rare and radiant maiden whom the angels name Lenore.” “Quoth the Raven, ‘Nevermore.’”
3. Edgar Allan Poe, 1845, complete as hosted. This is not the six-tale Poe collection already mapped.
4. For grades 6–12. Gravity in grief; no spectacle, and no cheap fright. Quote this wording, including “visiter” if you quote that line.

Quotations are verbatim from the English original, as hosted, Project Gutenberg #1065: The Raven, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/the-raven/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.