

"The Raven" Questions

** Discuss the following questions in your groups. Come to a consensus. Answer on a separate piece of paper OR via email.*

1. What are your impressions of the narrator?
2. How does the narrator respond to the noise he hears?
3. What does the narrator ask of the raven?
4. What is the response?
5. What does the speaker order the raven to do?
6. During the course of "The Raven," what changes occur in the narrator's attitude towards the bird?
7. What brings about this change?
8. What does the raven come to represent?
9. How does the narrator's emotional state change during the poem?
10. How are these changes related to the changes in his attitude toward the raven?
11. How is the word **nevermore** related to the narrator's emotional state at the end of the poem?
12. Do you talk to animals? Do you ever imagine them saying something back? Explain.
13. On that note, do you think the speaker of this poem has really lost his mind, or does he just seem very, very sad to you? Explain.
14. Have you ever known someone (or been someone) whose love turned into obsession? Does this poem make you think about that experience? Explain.
15. Several kinds of birds can be trained to mimic human speech. Why do you think Poe chose to use a raven instead of a parrot? Would the tone of sadness remain if you used a parrot instead of a raven in the poem? Explain.