

ACTIVITIES

Before Reading

1–Read the back cover and the introduction on the first page of the book. Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

F 1. These stories are about real people and real places.

T 2. These stories are about strange things that happen in the mind.

F 3. After Lady Madeline's death, her brother feels sad but peaceful.

T 4. The people at prince Prospero's ball are having fun, not thinking about death.

F 5. These stories are good to read when you are feeling ill, unhappy or frightened.

2–Here are the titles of the five stories. Which of the five things belong belongs to each story? Can you guess?

The Fall of the House of Usher...a strange book

The Black Cat...an axe

The Masque of the Red Death...a large black clock

William Wilson...a game of cards

The Tell-Tale Heart...a blue eye

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While Reading

Read The fall of the House of Usher. Choose the best question–word for these questions, and then answer them.

- Why did Roderick Usher write to the narrator?

Because it was very sick.

- Who was becoming weaker and thinner each day?

Usher was nothing sick.

- Where did they put the Lady Madeleine's coffin?

The coffin of Madeline went down it to the basement

- **Why did the narrator walk around the room during the storm?**

Because it was very nervous

- **What did the narrator do to make Usher calmer?**

He is his history

- **What did Usher realize from the sounds that he had heard?**

He realized that it was Madeline Usher screaming

- **Who stood outside the door of the narrator's room?**

It was Madeline Usher

- **What happened to the House of Usher?**

The house was cracked and fell.

Read the Black cat. Are these sentences true(T) or false(F)? Rewrite the false ones with the correct information.

T 1. The narrator liked animals more than people.

F 2. Pluto the dog was the narrator's favorite animal.

F 3. When Pluto bit the narrator, he cut one of its legs off.

T 4. The shape of a cat appeared on the bedroom wall.

F 5. The new cat looked the same as Pluto in every way.

T 6. The narrator killed his wife with an axe.

F 7. After he killed his wife, the narrator slept badly.

F 8. The police found the living woman and the dead cat together behind the wall.

Read The masque of the red Death. Then answer these questions.

- **Who was not afraid of the Red Death?**

Prince Prospero

- **Who did Prince Prospero invite to his castle?**

His friends

- **Why could nobody enter or escape from the castle?**

Met knew away the key

- **What were the colors of the seven rooms in the castle?**

green, black, orange, white, blue, purple, violet.

- **What was against the wall in the last room?**
- **What did people notice while the clock was chiming midnight?**

The masque figure

- **What was the stranger wearing?**

He was wearing a white cloak and mask

- **How did the Prince feel when he saw the stranger?**

He was angry

- **Why didn't anyone touch the stranger?**

They were afraid

- **What happened when the stranger turned and looked at the prince?**

The prince died

- **What was inside the stranger's clothes and his mask?**

Nothing

- **What was left in the castle when the clock stopped chiming?**

Every bad had died

Read William Wilson. Then match these halves of sentences to make a paragraph of seven sentences.

1. The narrator had to leave Oxford for Europe...because everyone knew that he was a cheat at cards.

- **But in every city that he visited....The other William Wilson appeared.**
- **When he had evil plans,...the other stopped them.**
- **At first the narrator obeyed Wilson's orders,...but then he began drinking heavily.**
- **This made him feel brave and strong...and he thought that could break away from his enemy.**
- **At last, at party in Rome, the narrator took his sword...and killed the other man.**
- **But when he looked at his enemy's face,...he saw that it was the same as his own.**

Read The Tell-Tale Heart. Here are some untrue sentences about it. Change them into true sentences.

- **Because of his disease the narrator had excellent hearing.**
- **The old man had never hurt the narrator in some way.**
- **The narrator decided to kill the old man because of his blue eye.**
- **The narrator took sixty minutes to put his head inside the old man's room.**

- The old man couldn't see and hear the narrator in his room.
- The narrator felt angry when he saw the old man's eye.
- The narrator pulled a heavy bed on the top of the old man.
- He hid the old man's dead body under the floor.
- The policeman came to the house because a neighbour has heard a loud shout.
- The narrator told the police that the old man was away in the country.
- When the narrator spoke more loudly, the noise in the room became louder.
- The noise in the room was the old man's heart.

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After reading

1. Imagine that the narrator in the fall of the house of Usher wrote to his wife during his visit. Use the linking words below to complete his letter.

Dear Sarah

I have been here for a week now. Usher was pleased to see me, But he has changed so much since our last meeting. He has a strange disease, which makes him very thin, pale and nervous. Since i arrived, we have spent a lot of time together. I try to help him, but his sadness is too deep, and sometimes i am frightened by his fantastic ideas.

Two days ago Usher's sister Madeline died, since i must stay here a little longer. Although i hate this house of gloom and madness, i must help my friend, who needs me very much. When he feels stronger, i will leave this terrible place for ever.

With love, Nathaniel

2. The policemen who found the black cat wrote a report about their visit to the house. Put these sentences in order, joining the parts where necessary, in order to make their report.

On the 7th July we went to 51 Baker Street.

After we had searched the rooms upstairs,... the owner took us down to the cellar.

We found nothing unusual there...so we got ready to leave.

Then the owner began to tell us how well built the house was.

He knocked on one of the cellar walls with his stick, ...and suddenly we heard a sound from behind the wall.

At first it was a soft cry, ...but then it became a loud and terrible scream.

We began to pull the wall down.

Soon we found the dead body of a woman,...And on top of her head there was a black cat with one eye.

The cat was making the terrible sound that we had heard.

4. Who, or what, was the other William Wilson? Which of these answers do you think is the best explanation?

- a real person– who happens to look just like the narrator
- a different part of the narrator's own mind
- somebody that the narrator imagines, in a waking dream
- the good side of the narrator's character
- a kind of ghost

5. Here are four passages from Wilson's diary. Complete them with the words below (use each word once) and then say who wrote each passage– the good or the bad Wilson.

- I no longer play cards. I am known to be a cheat which is no better than a thief. Once, when I tried to win a lot of money by cheating I was caught and told to leave Oxford at once. But the man that I tried to destroy was saved. (good)
- At Oxford I was clever and successful gambler. It was an easy way to make money. I used special cards, which I hid inside my sleeve. I only played with stupid people, but sadly, one day I was caught, and so had to leave England. (bad)
- Tonight the Duke Di Broglie's wife has agreed to meet me in a room where we can be alone. She is young, beautiful, and very clever– and tonight she will be mine! I shall fight anybody who tries to stop me. (bad)
- I spend my life searching for pleasure. Tonight I have planned a secret meeting with the Duke's wife. She is beautiful, but not clever enough to recognize an evil man when she sees one. Somebody should warn her about me. (good)

6. In The Tell-Tale Heart a neighbour talks to the police (see page 53) Put their conversation in the correct order and write in the speaker's names. The policeman speaks first (number 7)

Policeman=A

Man=B

A. Now, sir, what's the problem?

B. Well, there was a terrible noise tonight from the house next door– like a great shout or a scream.

- What time did you hear this scream?
- I'm not sure– about two o'clock perhaps.
- Two o'clock. I see. And were there any more screams?
- No, just one. But after that there was a loud bang– like something heavy falling to the floor.
- So, what did you do then?
- I went to the window and looked out. I didn't see anyone, but there was a light in the old man's room.
- This old man– do you know him?
- Oh yes– he's a very nice man. A younger man lives in the house too –but he's a bit strange.
- Strange? In what way?
- He talks to himself– and he has really wild eyes.
- Hmm. I think I should go next door and ask a few questions. Thank you for telling us about this.

7. Perhaps this is what some of the characters in the stories were thinking. Which five characters are they (one from each story), and what is happening in the story at this moment?

- Oh my god! Who is that? He looks really terrible. And all that blood! I don't think that's very funny. How can we enjoy ourselves with that in front of us? And how did he get in? Somebody will have to tell the

Prince...

The masque of the Red death

When the Prince is dead.

- What's happening? Something woke me up. I can't see anything , but i know there's something there. I'm so afraid.I'm listening and listening– it's dark and quiet, but i can feel something terrible, something frightening...

The Tell– Tale Heart

The old man woke up when he listened a sound.

- Now the wall is finished, he thinks he's safe– but he's wrong. He didn't see me climb in here with the body. I'll just sit here and wait until somebody comes– and then i'll open my mouth and ecream...

The black cat

When the man killed his wife into de cellar

- Soon it will end. On this wild night i will at last be free– free to search for my brother, and take him withme. One more push, and this wood will break. Then the door, and up the stairs. You cannot escape ne now, brother...

The Fall of the House of Usher

- I son't know what's wrong with me tonight, I must hve unlucky cards– i've always won before when i've played aganist him. Mustn't look worried. Have another glass of wine. He'll make a mistake soon, and them i'll win all my money back...

William Wilson

Wilson play with the duke in Rome

8.Look At these adjectives and nouns from the story. Make trhee pairs of words– an adjectives plus a noun– to suit each story. You can use words more than once.

Dark–castle/animal–the masque of the read death/ the black cat

Deep– sound/sadnen–Wiliam Wilson/ The fall of the House of Usher

Evil–plan–wiliam wilson

Fantastic–idea–The fall of the house of Usher

Freigtening–gloom/feeling–The fall of the house os Usher/ william Wilson

Ghostly–Face–the fall of the hoouse of Usher

Loud–Scream–the Tell–tale Heart

Misterios—stranger—The tell—Tale Heast

Sad—House—The Fall of the House of Usher

Silent—Murder—The Tell—Tale Heast

Strange—Sound/Fear— The Tell—Tale Heart/Wiliam Wilson

Terrible—Disease/anger— The masque of the read Death/ The black cat

Voiolent—Storn—The fall of The House Of Usher

Wild—Face/pleasure—The masque of the red Death/ William Wilson

10.Wich story did you find most frightening? Why?

Never, because this storys are sadics.

VOCABULARY

THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF USHER

Autumn: tardo

Sky: cel

Walls: paret

Gloom: penombra

Empty: comparar

Servant: servent

Tasteless: de mal gust

Leg: cama

Around: al voltant

Huge: enorme

THE BLACK CAT

Deeply: profundament

Explain: explicar

Even: uniforme

Pocket: butxaca

Human: huma

Plaster: guix

Climb: escalada

Worried: preocupat

Between: entre

Neck: coll

THE MASQUE OF THE RED DEATH

Disease: enfermetat

Keys: claus

Dream: son

Filled: ple

Narrow: estret

Among: entre

Shadow: en la sombra

Hang: penjar

Sword: espasa

Fearless: valent

WILLIAM WILSON

Remember: recordar

Misery: miseria

Playground: pati d'esbarjo

Following: seguent

Clearly: clarament

Drank: beguda

Clothes: roba

Cloak: capa

Worst: dolent

Double: doble

THE TELL-TALE HEART

Floor: tera

Sound: sa

Boring: aburrit

Alone: sol

Trouble: molestia

Face: cara

Hearing: sentit

Beat: cop

Neighbour: veí

Wine: vi