

# Close Reading- “The Tell-Tale Heart”

Answer each question below with **specific evidence** from the text to support your response.

1) To whom is the **narrator** speaking? Explain your reasoning.

2) Why does the narrator want to kill the old man? What does Poe expect the reader to think about the narrator’s reasoning?

3) The narrator visits the old man’s bedroom for seven nights before committing the murder on the eighth night. What finally motivates him to commit the act? What does Poe expect the reader to think about the narrator’s **motivation**?

4) After the narrator’s hand slips on the lantern, the old man sits up in bed. Describe the thoughts that go through the narrator’s head at this time and explain what these thoughts tell the reader about the narrator’s **internal conflicts**?

5) How does the narrator feel immediately after he commits the murder and deals with the body? What do you think Poe is trying to express through this shift in **tone**?

6) Which act shows the narrator's "wild audacity"? What does this shocking boldness say about the narrator's internal thoughts and conflicts?

7) The narrator claims that he is not mad. Aside from the murder itself, what evidence does the reader have that he is mad? Be specific.

8) What is the meaning behind the story's title?

9) Review the details Poe provides (and does not provide) regarding very basic elements of **setting** and **characterization**. Why might he choose to include and exclude these details?

10) Two significant **symbols** within the story are the eye and the heart. What might these symbols represent?



