

The Raven Y6 Narrative Poetry:
Knowledge Organiser and Key
Outcomes.(3 weeks)

Poetry Content

The Raven is a narrative poem which recounts the experience of a grieving man visited by a mysterious raven, unfolding events in a dramatic sequence. Themes of death, despair, and the supernatural place it firmly in Gothic tradition

Themes



Core Writing & Oracy Outcomes

- Poetry performances – focus on clarity, expression and engagement. See Oracy objectives.
- Writing of a narrative poem inspired by the original.

Key words

- **Quaint** – Old-fashioned or unusual in a charming way.
- **Lore** – Knowledge or stories passed down through generations.
- **Surcease** – To stop or come to an end.
- **Entreating** – Asking or begging in a serious way.
- **Mien** – A person's look or manner that shows their mood.
- **Placid** – Calm and peaceful.
- **Dirges** – Sad songs or poems, often about death.
- **Ominous** – Giving the feeling that something bad will happen.
- **Tempest** – A violent storm.
- **Respite** – A short break or rest from something unpleasant.
- **Nepenthe** – A mythical drink that makes you forget sadness.
- **Aidenn** – A poetic word for "Eden" or paradise.
- **Gilead** – A biblical place known for healing balm.
- **Pallas** – Refers to Pallas Athena, the Greek goddess of wisdom.
- **Ebony** – A very dark black color, like the raven's feathers.
- **Wrought** – Made or shaped carefully.
- **Beguiling** – Charming or enchanting, often in a tricky way.
- **Countenance** – A person's face or expression.
- **Melancholy** – Deep sadness or gloom.
- **Nevermore** – Never again; used as the raven's repeated answer.

Background Information

At the end of the unit, pupils will practise some past papers on Poetry.



The Raven was written by Edgar Allan Poe in 1845. Poe had a very sad life – many people he loved died, including his wife who was very ill when he wrote the poem. This made him think a lot about death and grief, which is why the poem feels dark and mysterious.

At the time, people were interested in ghosts and the afterlife, so Poe used a raven as a symbol of mystery and fate. The poem shows how someone can feel hopeless and lonely when they lose someone they love.

Core Reading Objectives

- Explore and analyse meaning in a poem using summary, impact of vocabulary and exploration of figurative language.
- Know a range of poetry by heart. (This is a homework task, but performances will be assessed in lessons using oracy criteria)