

Is this story told in first person, second person, or third person point of view?
How do you know?

The Tell-Tale Heart

Edgar Allan Poe

In literature, a symbol is a physical item that can stand for another object, a feeling, or even a person. What are two objects that could be identified as symbols in this story?

Why does the narrator commit this crime?

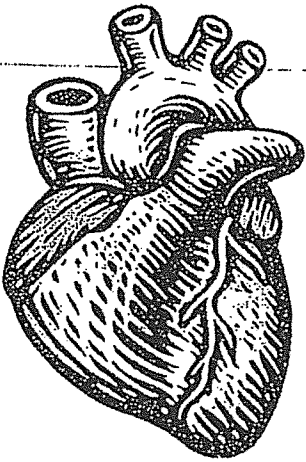
Is the conflict external or internal? Both? Give evidence.

Do you think the narrator feels guilty? Why or why not?

- 1.
- 2.

In what particular ways does Poe create suspense?

What is ironic about the narrator telling us he is not "mad"?



What do you think the author is hearing at the end of the story? Why do you think so?

Is the narrator reliable or unreliable? Give evidence from the story to prove your point.

Reading Comprehension – The Trial

Name: _____

Imagine you're the crazed narrator from Tell-Tale Heart. You've just finished your rant (the story) while testifying at your trial, but the prosecutor has more questions for you. How will you respond?

❶ PROSECUTOR: That's quite a testimony, sir. Did you resent having to take care of the old man?
The aCCusEd: _____

❷ PROSECUTOR: All those days spent plotting against him. What kept him from suspecting you?
The aCCusEd: _____

❸ PROSECUTOR: You say you crept into the old man's room for seven nights but couldn't bring yourself to harm him. What was different about the eighth night? Was it the way he snored? What?
The aCCusEd: _____

❹ PROSECUTOR: But it is more than that, isn't it? Why do you think the eye bothered you so much?
The aCCusEd: _____

❺ PROSECUTOR: You stated your "sense of hearing became acute." What did you mean by that?
The aCCusEd: _____

❻ PROSECUTOR: You say you are not insane, but what evidence can you present to back that up?
The aCCusEd: _____

❼ PROSECUTOR: You seem to be worried about what we think of you. Why is that?
The aCCusEd: _____

❽ PROSECUTOR: When you heard the beating of the heart, what were the police officers doing?
The aCCusEd: _____

❾ PROSECUTOR: Do you think you should be held responsible for this crime? Why or why not?
The aCCusEd: _____