READING LOG: THE TELL-TALE HEART

Directions: As you read, follow along with this reading log to ensure you are thinking deeply about the text.

AFTER READING THE FIRST TWO PAGES (537 - 538)

1. The narrator keeps insisting he isn’t mad. What evidence does he use to convince the reader of this? What is ironic about his claim? Explain.

2. The narrator is talking to someone. Who might “you” be? Explain your choice.

3. Explain why it is ironic the old man feared robbers?

4. Is this crime premeditated? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

AFTER READING THE NEXT TWO PAGES (539 - 540)

5. Consider the first column on page 540. How does the narrator hint at the old man’s fate?
6. "...there came to my ears a low, dull, quick sound, such as a watch makes when enveloped in cotton. I knew that sound well too." What does the narrator think he is hearing? In reality, what is he more likely hearing?

7. Consider the second column on page 540. What time does the narrator say it is? How do the details about time and place contribute to the mood?

8. Consider the first column on page 541. What is ironic about the narrator’s insistence here that you will no longer think he is mad?

9. "There was nothing to wash out - no stain of any kind - no blood spot whatever. I had been too wary for that. A tub had caught it all - ha! ha!" What impression do you form of the narrator from this exclamation? Explain.

10. The police arrive and the narrator invites them in. What is ironic about what happens next? Explain why this is ironic.

Thinking Critically...

11. Why do you think Poe entitled his story “The Tell-Tale Heart”?
**Analyzing the Text**

**Directions:** Poe uses many different stylistic elements in his story. Find examples of these elements and determine what the style feature adds to the text.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author Style Feature</th>
<th>Examples</th>
<th>What is the effect of this style feature?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Repetition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Italics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exclamation Points</td>
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**Directions:** The narrator keeps claiming he is not mad; however, many psychologists have diagnosed the narrator with three types of mental illness. Consider the mental illnesses below. Find examples of each in the text.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Mental Illness</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Examples from the Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paranoia</td>
<td>a mental condition characterized by delusions of persecution, unwarranted jealousy, or exaggerated self-importance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Delusions of Grander</td>
<td>a false impression your own importance or a sense that you are much greater, powerful, and influential than you really are</td>
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<tr>
<td>Obsession</td>
<td>a disorder in which an idea or thought continually preoccupies or intrudes in a person’s mind; the state of being intensely preoccupied with something</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Edgar Allan Poe is often considered the grandfather of all horror stories, the original mastermind of terror. In fact, when his stories were first written, people found them so terrifying they actually burned copies! This of course begs the question *How does Poe establish an atmosphere of horror in “The Tell-Tale Heart?”* In a few paragraphs, identify the mood of the story and analyze how Poe creates it. Be sure to include textual references to support your analysis using direct quotes and page numbers.

**Proficient (20 points)**

- Includes a hook to grab the reader’s attention
- A clearly stated thesis that answers the main question
- Includes two body paragraphs each focused on a separate type of irony (verbal, situational, dramatic)
- Body paragraphs contain topic sentences
- Each body paragraph contains two pieces of textual evidence
- All evidence is properly introduced, so there is never a hanging quotation
- The significance/impact of each piece of evidence is explained
- Conclusion ties the paper together nicely (repeats thesis, creative/interesting final thought)
- Writing is organized and flows logically (follows thesis, doesn’t jump around within paragraphs)
- Various transitions are used, so writing flows smoothly

**Close (14 - 15 points)**

- Meets 7 of proficient criteria

**Far (fewer than 14 points)**

- Meets fewer than 7 of proficient criteria