Name: _____

The Critic's Eye

Edgar Allan Poe (1809–1849) is celebrated as one of America's top poets and authors. Writing was not the only thing for which he was famous. He was also one of the best literary critics of his time. Literary critics are like book reviewers. They write about and comment on the quality of writing of the works of other people. Now, it's your turn. Be a literary critic like Edgar Allan Poe. Choose a piece of text to read, and critique it. Follow the steps below, and write a literary critique on the lines provided.

INTRODUCTION

State the name and author of the text or book about which you are writing. Then state your opinion about whether the text or book was well-written and why. To help you form your opinion, consider the story being told, the author's style of writing, and the quality of the characters.

Example: *Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village* by Laura Amy Schlitz has all the qualities of good storytelling. It has wonderfully written characters that come to life on every page.

Write your introduction: _____

_____

_____

BODY

Describe how the text or book you have selected matches or falls short of what you think is good writing. List one or two examples of how the author meets or fails to meet your expectations.

Example: As the plot of the novel thickens, the author's easy-to-understand writing style makes the story very believable with realistic plot twists.

Write the body of your critique: _____

_____

_____

_____

CONCLUSION

Summarize your overall opinion of the text or book. Explain how the text or book is either an example of good writing or an example of poor writing.

Example: The fun, descriptive style of this novel helps create unforgettable characters. Strong characters are at the heart of every great book.

Write your conclusion: _____

_____

_____

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