The Tell-tale Heart

Standard LANGUAGE ARTS—Students should apply knowledge of language structure, language conventions, media techniques, figurative language, and genre to create, critique, and discuss print and nonprint texts.

Summary
Scholastic News presents a classroom play based on an adaptation of “The Tell-tale Heart,” a spooky short story written by Edgar Allan Poe in 1843.

Pre-Reading Discussion
● Who is Edgar Allan Poe? Have you read any of his works? If so, what did you think of them?

Background
● This year marks the 200th anniversary of Edgar Allan Poe’s birth. He was born on January 19, 1809, in Boston, Massachusetts.
● Poe had a traumatic childhood. His parents, both professional actors, died before he was 3. John and Frances Allan raised him as a foster child in Richmond, Virginia.

Post-Reading Discussion
● How would you describe “The Tell-tale Heart”? What did you like and/or dislike about the story?

Mini Lesson Plan
Have students split into groups of four or five to write the next scene of the play, describing what they think happens to the narrator after he confesses. Then have each group act out its scene for the class.

Resources
● Poetry for Young People: Edgar Allan Poe by Brod Bagert and Carolyn Cobleigh. (Sterling, 2008)
● For more information and some fun activities about Edgar Allan Poe, go to www.poem200th.com/students.php.

Teaching the Cover Story

Using This Issue
CELEBRATE POETRY MONTH!
April is Poetry Month. This week, Scholastic News, Edition 5/6, focuses on noted poet and author Edgar Allan Poe with an adaptation of “The Tell-tale Heart.”

EXTEND THE LEARNING:
● Use the language arts skill on page 8 to help students explore the art of writing poetry in a style similar to Poe’s.

BLACKBOARD IDEAS:
● Decorate your classroom with photos of poets and pages of poems.
● Write a list of words on your blackboard, and have students create their own poems using the posted words.

Enjoy!
—Dara Sharif, Editor
dsharif@scholastic.com

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Kepler telescope ...... p. 2

Standard

SCIENCE: Students should understand that most objects in the solar system are in regular and predictable motion, and that these motions explain such phenomena as the day, the year, phases of the moon, and eclipses.

Summary

NASA's Kepler telescope was launched on March 6. It will search for Earthlike planets (on which life may exist) that are orbiting stars other than the sun.

Pre-Reading Discussion

● What are the eight planets in our solar system?

Background

● Kepler is expected to first detect giant gaseous planets like Jupiter that circle close to and fast around their stars. Next, it will most likely find Neptune-size planets. Locating rocky planets as small as Earth is expected to take at least three years.

● Kepler has the largest camera ever launched into space.

● Kepler's telescope is so powerful that from space it would be able to detect a person in a small town turning off a porch light at night.

Post-Reading Discussion

● Will Kepler be successful in finding Earthlike planets with life on them? Why or why not?

Mini Lesson Plan

Have students research Johannes Kepler and write a paragraph about why NASA might have named its telescope after him.

Resource

● Keep up with the Kepler mission, at http://kepler.nasa.gov.

This Week Online

www.scholastic.com/news

Student Poets

“Write It” is a rich online resource that can help bring the art of poetry writing to life for your students. The Web site has interactive modeling, a student publishing center, and a forum for sharing teaching ideas with other educators. Just click on the “Poetry” tab on the left-hand side of www.scholastic.com/writeit and you will find step-by-step lesson plans and printables to help you guide your students through the poetry-writing process.

Historic Women

Don’t miss our special report on women who have made history in government, in the military, and in their communities. It’s all at www.scholastic.com/news.
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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Identifying Figurative and Literal Language

When we use language, sometimes we want the words to mean exactly what they say. This is called literal language. At other times, we want words to create an image or suggest an idea. This is called figurative language.

For example:

**Literal:** I can’t find my keys and I keep forgetting appointments.

**Figurative:** My mind is oatmeal.

Decide if the sentences below use literal or figurative language. Then, place an “L” or an “F” before each one.

1. Eric thinks doing schoolwork is one big video game. **F**
2. Lauren has made up her mind to volunteer every Tuesday after school. **L**
3. Thinking about summer camp makes me feel like a bundle of joy and sunshine. **F**
4. As I delivered my speech, my voice sounded as if I’d swallowed rocks and sand. **F**
5. Emma may seem clumsy, but onstage she dances like a gazelle. **F**
6. Jacob expresses many feelings through his photography. **L**
7. My teammate is a snail and a turtle combined! **F**
8. Before the soccer match, both teams attended a sportsmanship program. **L**
9. I have a ton of paperwork to do before I can enjoy the sun this summer. **L**
10. Sometimes I have to be my little brother’s brain. **F**