

# “The Raven” by Edgar Allan Poe

Define:

- rhyme scheme (p.466)
- internal rhyme (p.466)
- end rhyme (p.466)
- alliteration
- assonance
- consonance

Define: **alliteration**, **assonance**, **consonance**, internal rhyme,

*end rhyme and rhyme scheme: ABCBBB*

The Raven

by Edgar Allan Poe

Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary, A  
Over many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore, B  
While I nodded, nearly napping, suddenly there came a tapping, C  
As of someone gently rapping, rapping at my chamber door. B  
" 'Tis some visitor," I muttered, "tapping at my chamber door; B  
Only this, and nothing more." B

Ah, distinctly I remember, it was in the bleak December, A  
And each separate dying ember wrought its ghost upon the floor. B  
Eagerly I wished the morrow; vainly I had sought to borrow C  
From my books surcease of sorrow, sorrow for the lost Lenore, B  
For the rare and radiant maiden whom the angels name Lenore, B  
Nameless here forevermore. B

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## “The Raven” – 18 stanza analysis and interpretation

1. Sitting reading old books, nodding off (falling asleep) when someone knocked on his door.
2. It was December; it was dark- he was wishing for the next morning- he's trying to forget by reading.
3. Every single noise is scaring him- he calms himself by saying it's a visitor
4. He apologizes because he was sleeping and opens the door – no one is there
5. He looked out into the darkness and nobody is there- he said Lenore and heard an echo back
6. He heard a tapping and went to his window and heard it louder but it was the wind (convince himself)
7. He opens the window and a raven comes in and sits on the bust of Athena
8. The stern looking bird makes him smile. He asked the bird what's his/her name, replied with “nevermore
9. He was shocked to see a talking bird (thinks his name is Nevermore)
10. The bird will leave tomorrow; he's not worried about it. But the bird says – nevermore.
11. He rationalizes that nevermore is the only word the bird knows
12. He pushes a chair in front of the bird and starts thinking about what nevermore might mean.
13. He sits in the chair and starts thinking about Lenore. Her head will never touch the cushion again.
14. He thinks angels are there to help him forget- he asked for drug to help
15. He asked the bird if the Devil sent him or if he just showed up. He asked the bird if there is relief from his suffering – bird says no
16. He wants to know if he will see Lenore in heaven- bird says nevermore
17. He tells the bird to get out – bird says no
18. The bird stays there as a reminder of the sorrow he cannot get rid of