

Name: _____ Period: _____ Date: _____

The Raven – Study Questions



1. What was the narrator doing to help himself forget about his pain?
2. In which month does this narrative take place?
3. What was the narrator's wife's name?
4. Our narrator tries to convince himself that the noise he heard is something explainable. This happens twice. What are these two things?
5. When the raven comes in, what does it perch on?
6. Who is Pallas?
7. What might this represent (referring to the previous two questions)?
8. What is our narrator's first impression of the bird?
9. Where does he think the bird came from? What is the exact term used?
10. "...as my Hopes have flown before". What Hopes?

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11. "...Then, upon the velvet sinking, I betook myself to linking/fancy unto fancy". Explain "linking fancy unto fancy".

12. "Then methought, the air grew denser, perfumed from an unseen censer" Explain.

13. Explain "is there balm in Gilead?"

14. "Tell this soul with sorrow laden if, within the distant Aidenn,
It shall clasp a sainted maiden whom the angels name Lenore-
Clasp a rare and radiant maiden whom the angels name Lenore.
Quoth the Raven "Nevermore"

Explain what our narrator is asking here and how this adds to our narrator's depression and anger.

15. "Be that word our sign of parting..." What is he talking about?

16. "Take thy beak from out my heart and take thy form from off my door" Explain.

17. Explain the ending of the poem. What becomes of our poor narrator?

