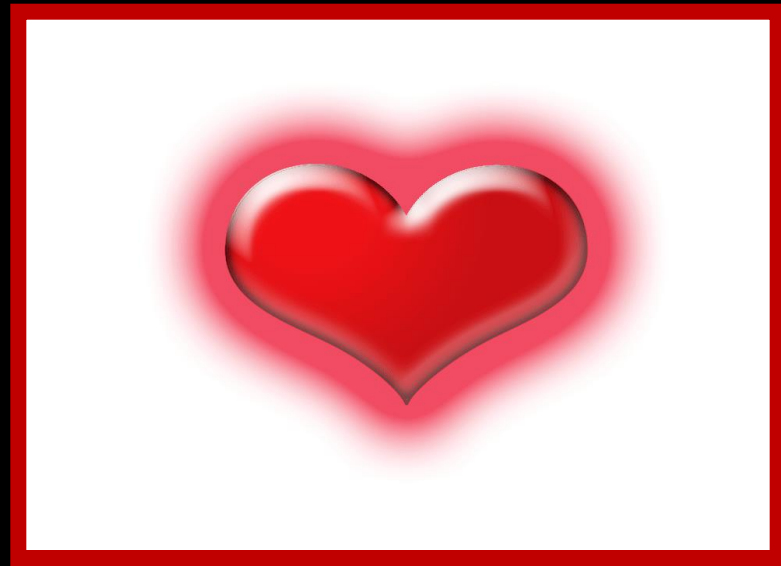


# “The Tell-Tale Heart” by Edgar Allen Poe



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# The Tell-Tale Heart

Short Story by Edgar Allan Poe

Introducing the Short Story

with VIDEO TRAILER 

Literary Analysis: Suspense

Reading Skill: Evaluate Narrator

Vocabulary in Context



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## The Tell-Tale Heart

INTRODUCING THE SHORT STORY

### ***What makes you SUSPICIOUS?***▼

Has something or someone ever seemed dangerous or untrustworthy to you?▼

The feeling you had was suspicion.



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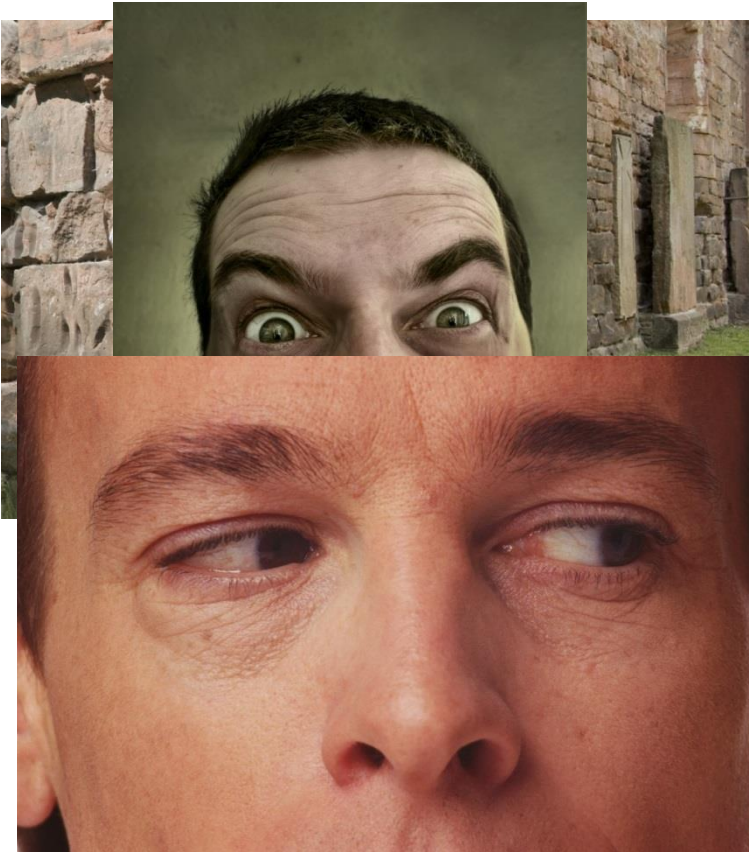
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## The Tell-Tale Heart

INTRODUCING THE SHORT STORY

### *What makes you* **SUSPICIOUS?**



While suspicion might come from a misunderstanding, ▼  
it can also be a warning that something is very wrong. ▼

In this story, you'll meet a man whose own suspicions are his downfall.



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## The Tell-Tale Heart

INTRODUCING THE SHORT STORY

### ***What makes you SUSPICIOUS?***

#### ***DISCUSS***

With a small group, discuss suspicious characters you've read about or seen on television shows.▼

In what ways did these characters look or act differently from other characters?▼

Continue your discussion by creating a list of warning signs that should make a person suspicious.



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# The Tell-Tale Heart

**VIDEO TRAILER** 



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## The Tell-Tale Heart

### Literary Analysis

### Suspense

Writers often “hook” readers by creating a sense of excitement, tension, dread, or fear about what will happen next.▼

This is called **suspense**.



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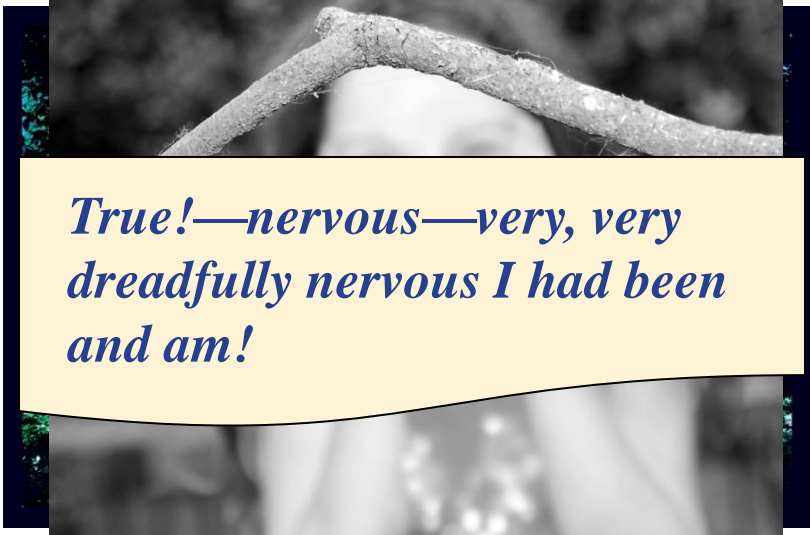


## Literary Analysis

## Suspense

Edgar Allan Poe uses the following techniques to develop suspense: ▼

- describing a character's anxiety or fear ▼
- relating vivid descriptions of dramatic sights and sounds ▼
- repeating words, phrases, or characters' actions ▼



*True!—nervous—very, very dreadfully nervous I had been and am!*

As you read “The Tell-Tale Heart,” notice what causes you to feel suspense.

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**Reading Skill**

**Evaluate Narrator**



Have you ever suspected someone was not telling you the truth? ▼

Just as you can't trust every person you meet, you can't believe all **narrators**, or characters who tell a story.



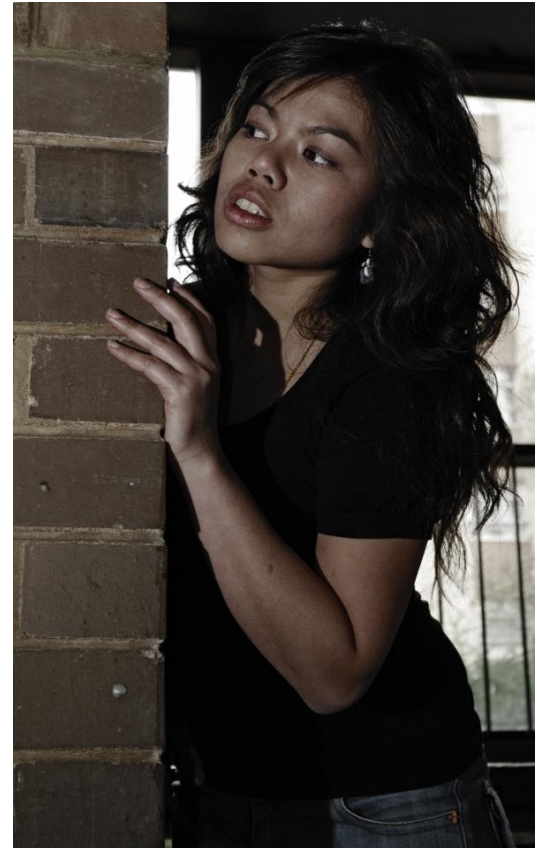
**Reading Skill**

**Evaluate Narrator**

To evaluate a narrator's **reliability**, or trustworthiness, pay attention to his or her actions, attitudes, and statements.▼



Do any raise your suspicions?



**Reading Skill**

**Evaluate Narrator**

As you read “The Tell-Tale Heart,” use a chart like the one below to record clues that reveal whether the narrator is reliable or not.▼

Narrator’s Reliability	
Makes Me Suspicious: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li><li>•</li></ul>	Makes Me Trust Him: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li><li>•</li></ul>

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## The Tell-Tale Heart

### Vocabulary in Context

Poe uses the words in the box to the right to reveal how the main character is acting, feeling, and thinking. For each word below, choose a word from the box that is closest in meaning. Answers appear in brackets.

1. annoy ▼ [vex]
2. cautiously ▼ [stealthily]
3. intense ▼ [acute]
4. crack ▼ [crevice]
5. deceptive ▼ [hypocritical]

acute  
audacity  
conceive  
crevice  
derision  
hypocritical  
stealthily  
stifled  
vehemently  
vex



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## The Tell-Tale Heart

### Vocabulary in Context

6. smothered ▼ [stifled]
7. ridicule ▼ [derision]
8. think of ▼ [conceive]
9. strongly ▼ [vehemently]
10. shameless daring ▼ [audacity]

acute  
audacity  
conceive  
crevice  
derision  
hypocritical  
stealthily  
stifled  
vehemently  
vex



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## Vocabulary in Context

 **acute** *adj.* sharp; keen ▼

 **audacity** *n.* shameless daring or boldness ▼

 **conceive** *v.* to think of ▼

 **crevice** *n.* crack ▼

 **derision** *n.* ridicule



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## Vocabulary in Context

 **hypocritical** *adj.* false or deceptive ▼

 **stealthily** *adv.* cautiously; secretly ▼

 **stifled** *adj.* smothered **stifle** *v.* ▼

 **vehemently** *adv.* with intense emotion ▼

 **vex** *v.* to disturb; to annoy

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