“The Tell-Tale Heart”
Post-Reading Packet

Edgar Allan Poe

Name ____________________________________________   Period ________
Post-Reading Activities for “Tell-Tale Heart”

“The Tell-Tale Heart“ Plot Parts

The action of a story is called the plot. Most plots follow a similar pattern. The introduction presents a character’s main problem. Then the problem gets more complicated until the climax (the exciting turning point of the story). In the resolution, the problem is resolved. Last, there’s a conclusion.

Directions: Fill in the chart with the different parts of the plot in “The Tell-Tale Heart.“

1. Introduction
   At the beginning of the story, what problem did the narrator have?

2. The Plot Thickens
   What does the narrator do seven nights in a row?

3. Climax
   What does the narrator do on the eighth night?

4. Resolution
   How does the narrator feel afterwards? When does his mood begin to change and why?

5. Conclusion
   What does the narrator do at the end of the story?
VOCABULARY REVIEW

Directions: Answer each of the questions in complete sentences using your text, “Tell-Tale Heart” only. Use each vocabulary word in your answer.

1. What vexes the narrator?

2. What does the narrator resolve to do about the conflict?

3. How does the narrator cunningly treat the old man before he begins his plan?

4. How does the narrator stealthily stalk the old man before he enacts his plan?

5. What does the narrator have the audacity to do after he follows through on his plan?

6. Explain how the narrator shows derision toward the situation and what he did to the old man.
SHORT RESPONSE QUESTIONS

Directions: For each question, use the PEEL method of answering. Cite using line numbers.

1. Explain whether or not the narrator is reliable and explain why or why not using textual evidence.

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   __________________________________________________________________________
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2. Describe the narrator’s relationship with the old man. How does the narrator feel about the old man in general? Cite textual evidence in your answers.

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3. Cite two direct and specific examples from the story that the author uses to create an atmosphere of horror or suspense. These are sentences that set or enhance the MOOD (the general feeling) of the story. Give the line numbers with your examples.

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4. Why did Poe title this story “The Tell-Tale Heart”? How was the heart a tell tale? Who was the tell tale in this story? **NO PEEL NEEDED.**

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**JAIL or HOSPITAL?**

**Directions:** You have read the short story “The Tell-Tale Heart”. In some places, a person can be found innocent of a crime because he or she is judged to be insane and unable to recognize that his or her actions were wrong. In those cases, the person is usually sent to a psychiatric hospital for treatment. **In “The Tell-Tale Heart”, can the narrator tell that what he is doing is wrong? Should he be sent to prison or to a hospital?** Cite three pieces of evidence (with line numbers) for each side in the chart. You will use some of this evidence for your argumentative essay. Choose evidence that you can clearly explain why he belongs in each place.

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