

Questions for “Tell-Tale Heart”

- a. Knowledge:
 - i. How did the narrator describe himself in the first paragraph of the story?
 - ii. What body part does the narrator hate the old man for?
 - iii. What happens to the narrator at the end of the story?
- b. Comprehension:
 - i. What was the author’s purpose, or purposes, in writing this story?
 - ii. What does the title of the story have to do with the story?
 - iii. How do you think the authorial voice feels about taking the life of the old man? (Point to a place in the text that backs up your belief.)
- c. Application:
 - i. **Write your own horror story.**
 - ii. Does this story remind you of any other pieces that you know of—any that we’ve read?
 - iii. How does the style and imagery in this piece tie in with modern horror movies, like *White Noise* or *The Nightmare on Elm Street*?
- d. Analysis:
 - i. Identify all times where the narrator denies that he is mad? Why does the author have the narrator deny that he is mad many times?
 - ii. What do you think is the main idea of the story?
 - iii. Compare this piece to “Young Goodman Brown”, which we just read. Write down three differences that you notice.
- e. Synthesis:
 - i. What might you change about the story if you could? The beginning, the ending, certain words?
 - ii. Can you explain what, in your own words, you think one of the main ideas of “The Tell-Tale Hear” might be?
 - iii. What would logically happen to the narrator of the story when the police take him away?
- f. Evaluation:
 - i. Is the title of the story a good one? Explain your answer.
 - ii. What do you think the tone of the story was? Explain your answer.
 - iii. What do you think of the story? Why did you like, or not like, the poem?