

UNIT 2 Expressing a National Spirit
American Renaissance 1800 to 1850

A STEIN WOOD
FROEBEL
BILINGUAL SCHOOL
Home of the Space Generation



**THE FALL
OF
THE HOUSE
OF USHER**



SPEAK YOUR MIND



Haunted houses have always been a staple of Gothic literature. What might be the link between a haunted house and a haunted family? How might one lead to the other, and how might the two reinforce each other?

Take a minute to answer the questions in your notebook and share.

"The Fall of the House of Usher" is a short story by American writer Edgar Allan Poe, first published in 1839 in Burton's Gentleman's Magazine, then included in the collection Tales of the Grotesque and Arabesque in 1845. The story is characteristically Poe in several respects. It portrays the themes of death in life, as well as themes of decay, illness, and insanity.



POE: CONTEXT & LEGACY

Poe was often dismissed by contemporary critics because of the unusual content and brevity of his stories. He didn't write novels! When his work was critically evaluated, it was condemned for its tendencies toward Romanticism. Poe conceived of his writing as a response to the literary conventions of this period. In "The Fall of the House of Usher," he deliberately subverts convention by rejecting the typical practices of preaching or moralizing and instead focusing on affect and unity of atmosphere.





When Poe began writing short stories, the short story was not generally regarded as serious literature. Poe's writing helped elevate the genre from a position of critical neglect to an art form. Today, Poe's short stories are lauded as masterpieces of fiction. "The Fall of the House of Usher" stands as one of Poe's most popular and critically acclaimed stories.

LITERARY ELEMENTS

Gothic Fiction

A style characterized by the use of medieval settings, a murky atmosphere of horror and gloom, and grotesque, mysterious, or violent incidents.

Foreshadowing

Is the technique of hinting at events (usually tragic) that will occur later in a story. Foreshadowing often appears at the beginning of a story, or a chapter, and it helps the reader develop expectations about the upcoming events.



APPLY READING SKILL



Making Predictions

Predictions are educated guesses based upon clues left by the writer or your own personal experiences. Trying to guess what happens next helps reader remain meaningfully engaged and get more enjoyment from a text.

APPLY READING SKILL

As you read "The Fall of the House of Usher" record examples of clues that help you predict what happens next in the chart below.

PAGE #	CLUE	MY PREDICTION	CORRECT	INCORRECT

ASSESSMENT

After reading pages 149-164 in your book, complete the activities:

1. REFER TO TEXT &
2. REASON WITH TEXT
3. & ANALYZE LITERATURE
 - **Gothic Fiction and Foreshadowing** - How does Poe set the scene for his tale of Gothic fiction? How do the descriptions of the house and grounds, as well as the characters, contribute to the plot?
 - Authors use foreshadowing to develop suspense and sometimes to create irony; often, the incident that occurs later is the opposite of what readers have been led to expect. What instances of foreshadowing did you find in the story? What might the story have been like without them?



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