

Annabel Lee Poem Analysis

Suggested Lesson Procedure (~60 Minutes):

1. Warm-Up (5 minutes)

Begin class with a quick bell ringer to activate prior knowledge.

Ask students: *What defines true love?*

2. Distribute copies of “Annabel Lee” by Edgar Allan Poe. Read the poem aloud to the class while students follow along. (5 minutes)

3. Have students reread the poem independently or with a partner and answer the questions along the side of the poem. Circulate the room to support students and clarify misunderstandings. (15 minutes)

4. After completion, briefly review answers as a class to ensure understanding before moving on. (10 minutes)

5. Students will now move into deeper analysis of the poem. This can be completed independently, in pairs, or small groups depending on your class needs. (15 minutes)

6. Review the analysis questions as a whole class. (10 minutes)

Name:

Stanza 1

What does *kingdom by the sea* suggest about the setting?

“Annabel Lee” Edgar Allan Poe

It was many and many a year ago,
In a kingdom by the sea,
That a maiden there lived whom you may know
By the name of Annabel Lee;
And this maiden she lived with no other thought
Than to love and be loved by me.

What is the speaker’s relationship with Annabel Lee?

I was a child and she was a child,
In this kingdom by the sea,
But we loved with a love that was more than love—
I and my Annabel Lee—
With a love that the wingèd seraphs of Heaven
Coveted her and me.

Stanza 2

What does the phrase “*love that was more than love*” mean? What figurative language is it?

And this was the reason that, long ago,
In this kingdom by the sea,
A wind blew out of a cloud, chilling
My beautiful Annabel Lee;
So that her highborn kinsmen came
And bore her away from me,
To shut her up in a sepulchre
In this kingdom by the sea.

What does *coveted* mean in this context?

Why are the angels jealous of the couple?



Stanza 3

What happens to Annabel Lee?

What does *sepulchre* mean?

Who are her *highborn kinsmen*?

The angels, not half so happy in Heaven,
Went envying her and me—
Yes!—that was the reason (as all men know,
In this kingdom by the sea)
That the wind came out of the cloud by night,
Chilling and killing my Annabel Lee.

Stanza 4

According to the speaker, what caused Annabel Lee's death?

But our love it was stronger by far than the love
Of those who were older than we—
Of many far wiser than we—
And neither the angels in Heaven above
Nor the demons down under the sea
Can ever dissever my soul from the soul
Of the beautiful Annabel Lee;

Do you think this explanation is literal or symbolic? Explain.

For the moon never beams, without bringing me
dreams

Stanza 5

What idea is Poe expressing about love in this stanza?

Of the beautiful Annabel Lee;
And the stars never rise, but I feel the bright eyes
Of the beautiful Annabel Lee;
And so, all the night-tide, I lie down by the side
Of my darling—my darling—my life and my bride,
In her sepulchre there by the sea—
In her tomb by the sounding sea.

How does this stanza develop the theme?

Stanza 6

What images does the speaker connect to Annabel Lee?

What does the speaker do at the end of the poem?



What does this reveal about his emotional state?

Literary Analysis

1. What is the tone of the poem?

2. What words or phrases create a melancholy mood?

3. Why do you think Poe repeats the phrase “*in a kingdom by the sea*” so often?

4. How does Poe use imagery to shape the reader’s emotional response?

5. What is the theme of the poem?

6. Do you think the speaker’s love is healthy or obsessive? Explain your reasoning.

7. How does Poe use supernatural elements to reveal the speaker’s state of mind?

8. Is the speaker reliable or unreliable?

9. Do you think the speaker is honoring Annabel Lee, or is he trapped in his grief?

10. Do you think love can continue after someone is gone? Explain.