

**Poetry Comparison**  
**“The Raven” and “Annabel Lee” by Edgar Allan Poe**

This activity is designed to be completed after students have read and analyzed both poems, “Annabel Lee” and “The Raven.”

**Suggested Lesson Procedure**

1. Begin by having students compare and contrast the two poems using the questions provided on the worksheet. Students may work in pairs to encourage discussion and deeper analysis. (~15 minutes)
2. Once pairs have completed the activity, review responses as a whole class, prompting students to justify their thinking. (~15 minutes)
3. Next, transition to an independent creative writing task titled “Poe Plot Twist.” In this activity, students will reimagine one of the poems from a different perspective or interpretive angle. They should then explain how their revised version alters the overall theme or tone of the poem. (~20 minutes)

Name:

Class:

## “Annabel Lee” and “The Raven”



1. What similarities stood out to you between the two poems?

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2. What are the key differences between the two speakers?

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3. How do the speakers' memories shape their emotions in both poems?

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4. Which poem feels more romantic, and which feels more gothic?

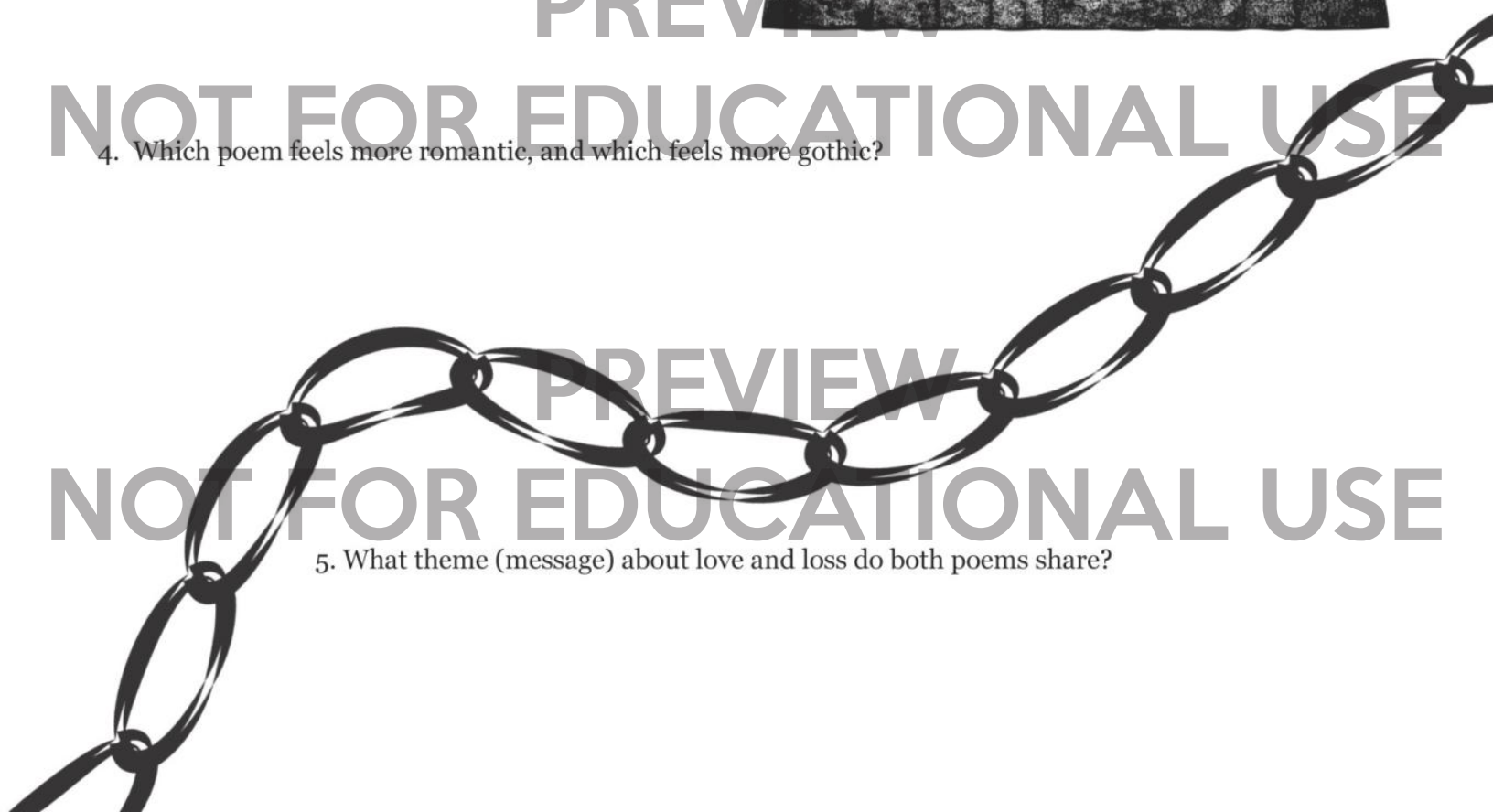
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5. What theme (message) about love and loss do both poems share?



6. How are the endings of the poems similar?





7. Which speaker demonstrates more control over their emotions?

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8. Why do you think Poe chooses to write about such dark themes? Do you think Poe is glorifying grief in these poems? Why or why not?

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9. If both speakers were real people, which one would you be more concerned about? Why?

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10. Which poem do you prefer? Why?



## Poe Plot Twist

**Part: 1** Choose one “what if” scenario below and rewrite a key moment from “Annabel Lee” or “The Raven” to reflect that new interpretation. You may write your version from another character’s point of view, such as Annabel Lee, Lenore, or the raven, or you may rewrite the scene in third person, as an objective observer.

Choose *one* scenario:

What if Annabel Lee didn’t die naturally, but the speaker played a role in her death?

What if the narrator’s love for Annabel Lee was one-sided, and she did not feel the same way?

What if Annabel Lee’s death was staged by her family to separate her from the narrator?

What if the raven is not real, but a hallucination created by the speaker’s grief and exhaustion?

What if Lenore never existed, but was an idealized figure created by the speaker?

What if the raven suddenly said something other than “Nevermore”?

**Part 2:** After your rewrite, explain in 2–3 sentences how your version changes the meaning, tone, or theme of the original poem.

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