

“The Raven”

Glossary

Stanza 1:

Dreary: dull, bleak, and lifeless; depressing.

To ponder: To think about (something) carefully.

Weary: Feeling or showing tiredness, especially as a result of excessive exertion or lack of sleep.

Quaint: Attractively unusual or old-fashioned.

Lore: a body of traditions and knowledge on a subject or held by a particular group, typically passed from person to person by word of mouth.

To rap: To strike (something) against a hard surface with rapid audible blows; To knock hard and fast.

Chamber: Room.

To mutter: To say something in a low or barely audible voice, especially in dissatisfaction or irritation.

Stanza 2:

Bleak: (of the weather) cold and miserable.

ember: A small piece of burning or glowing coal or wood in a dying fire.

wrought: Bring about; produce as a result; bring (a material or mixture) to a desired shape or consistency by hammering, kneading, or some other method.

the morrow: The morning, or the next day.

vainly: In a way that produces no result; without success.

surcease: Relief or consolation; the stopping of something.

maiden: A girl or young woman, usually unmarried or a virgin.

Stanza 3:

Silken: Soft or lustrous like silk.

Rustling: Making a soft, muffled crackling sound like that caused by the movement of dry leaves or paper.

Thrilled: Gave a sudden feeling of excitement or fear.

To still: To calm; to make something still.

'Tis: It is.

Entreating: Asking for; expressing an earnest or anxious request; pleading.

Stanza 4:

Forgiveness: Pardon.

Implore: Ask for; beg for.

Faintly: Softly; quietly.

Scarce: Hardly; barely.

Stanza 5:

Peering: To look with difficulty.

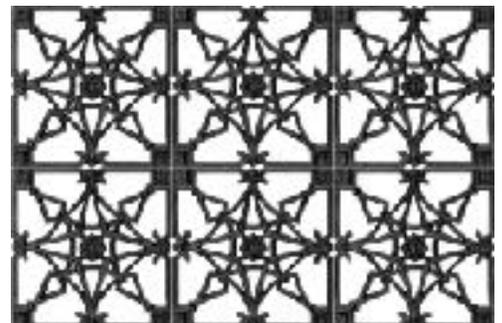
Token: A word or object that authenticates the speaker or holder; something that lets you know who a person is.

Murmured: Said something in a low, soft or indistinct voice.

Merely: Just; only.

Stanza 6:

Lattice: A structure consisting of strips of wood or metal crossed and fastened together with square or diamond-shaped spaces left between, used as a screen or fence or as a support for climbing plants.



Stanza 7:

Shutter: each of a pair of hinged panels, often louvered, fixed inside or outside a window that can be closed for security or privacy or to keep out light.

Flirt: (of a bird) Wave or open and shut (its wings or tail) with a quick flicking motion.

Flutter: Flap (its wings) quickly and lightly.

Stately: Having a dignified, unhurried, and grand manner; majestic in manner and appearance.

Ex: "a stately procession"

Obeisance: deferential respect.

Mien: A person's look or manner.

Perched: Alighted or rested on something; sat in a high or narrow place.

Pallas: Pallas is another name for Athena, the goddess of wisdom.



Stanza 8:

Ebony: A heavy blackish wood from a tropical tree.

Beguiling: Charming or enchanting, often in a deceptive way.

Fancy: Imagination or whim.

Stern: Serious; authoritarian; strict; severe.

Decorum: Behavior; etiquette; suitability to the requirements of a person, rank, or occasion.

Countenance: Face, or facial expression.

Shorn: Past tense of "shear"- to cut off with big scissors. Ex: "We shear the sheep's wool twice a year."

Craven: Contemptibly lacking in courage; cowardly.

Ghastly: Causing great horror or fear; frightful or macabre.

Grim: Depressing or worrying; harsh, merciless, severe. Ex: Death is often called "the grim reaper".

"The night's Plutonian shore": "Plutonian" is a reference to Pluto, the Roman god of the underworld. The shore is that of the River Styx, which souls must cross to reach the underworld. The narrator implies that the raven is a messenger from the afterlife/underworld.

Quoth: Said.

Stanza 9:

Marvelled: Was filled with wonder or astonishment.

Ungainly: Clumsy; inelegant; Ungraceful.

Fowl: Bird.

Blest: Blessed.

Stanza 10:

Placid: Calm and peaceful, not easily upset or excited.

Uttered: Said something aloud.