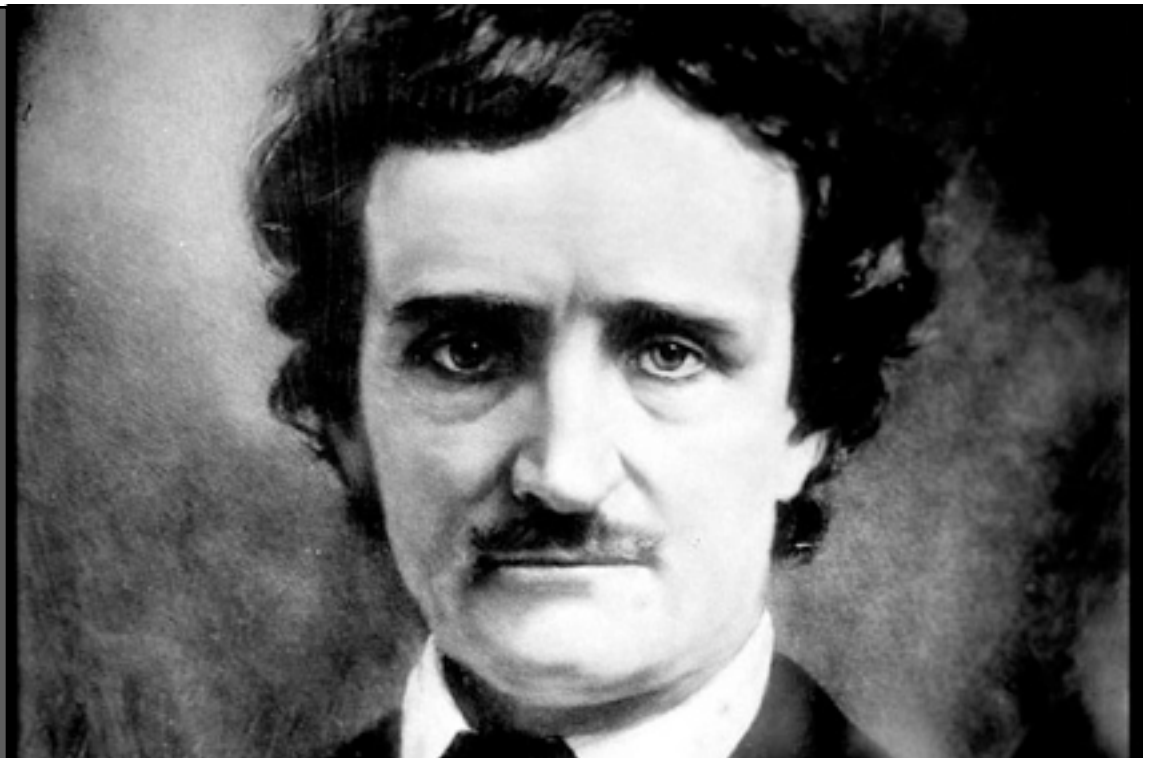


"Those who dream
by day
are cognizant
of many things
which escape those
who dream only by night.
—Edgar Allan Poe

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1-2-3 Come Rave On With Me!

Are you looking for some quick and easy back to school things? I love doing activities that can be made into a student-generated bulletin board, which helps check one more thing off my long "to do" list. If you need help with that too, you'll enjoy my **Quoth The Raven** packet filled with fun.

I don't know of any teacher who does not cover rules and regulations on the **1st day of school**; seems like that takes up the better part of the day and can be a bit boring for the average kiddo. Why not let your students have a say in the rules? With a little teacher guidance, you can pretty much steer your students into thinking up everything you'd have put on a list anyway.

I thought a cool way to do this was with a raven. If your school mascot is a raven, you'll find this even more appropriate. Choose one of my "**Nevermore**" headers and then ask students what they think should NOT happen in their class. Examples for older students would be texting, put-downs, having cell phones ring, and checking Facebook on their laptops. Younger children will think of name calling, kicking, biting, spitting, pinching, pushing, hitting etc. Jot down things as they come up with them. Have a discussion of why they think avoiding this kind of behavior will be helpful to the class. After you have made and voted upon things that need to be on your classes' **Nevermore List**, type it up, laminate and post it. Having student participation makes children feel important and part of the process. You may want them to sign the document as further reinforcement of your class's rule commitment. Perhaps red ink would be a nice finishing touch.

To expand on the "**Nevermore**" theme, discuss why it's important to try and do your best and improve throughout the year. Discuss your students goals and what they want to accomplish. Afterwards, discuss any behavior that might get in the way of reaching those goals. i.e. missing assignments, not doing homework, not studying, not reading, procrastinating, etc. Have students reflect on their own personal goals and things they'd like NOT to do anymore. Have them write their thoughts down on the template. Make a copy of their **1st day** photo and have them glue it to their paper to make it extra special.

I absolutely LOVE **Tagxedo**. <http://www.tagxedo.com> It's a FREE, and an extremely easy word-art program. I have a multitude of ideas of how to use this site that is never ending. With the help of an adult, even a young 5 or kindergartner can make a word picture. Since most of us have a computer in the classroom to use as a center, this offers relevant technology time. I call this writing "craftivity" **Quoth the Student Forever More**. Run off the raven holding a sign so each of your students has one.

If you'd like to cut and paste your students' photo and type in their name, as I've done on the sample, visit the very creative and generous **Tidbits and Trinkets** for the raven graphic. http://store.tidbitstrinkets.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/TidbitsTrinkets-Raven_Blank-Freebie.png If you like the font I used, it's called **Kelly Ann Gothic**. You can find it for free at: <http://www.dafont.com/kelly-ann-gothic.font> Otherwise, simply use my template and have students glue their photo in the frame and write their name.

Play around with **Tagxedo** before you demonstrate it to your class. I suggest making your own sample. Students always enjoy learning things about their teacher. For your convenience, I've included my raven silhouette so that you can import it. I didn't want to make this blog too long, so I've included a Tagxedo "how to" with the packet. There's also a word art "**Nevermore**" raven poster.

Have students think of adjectives that describe themselves. These are qualities that are worth "raving" about, and the words that they will type into the "load" section of [Tagxedo](#). Explain to students that *quoth* is an old English way of saying "said." This is why they'll be attaching their raven with the sign to their word art. i.e. Kelli is raving about the wonderful qualities she possesses, that make her special.

I've also designed a hanging tag to help make your bulletin board pop. Explain to your students that they "earn" one of these when they have given their best effort and completed the activity. The portrait of Poe is from a real US postage stamp. I got the free digital clipart tag over at [Granny Enchanted](#). (<http://freedigiscrapbookelements.blogspot.com/2012/02/tag-directory-page-1.html>) I stumbled upon her wonderful site late last night and am thrilled to be using some digital clip art now. My wheels are turning of all sorts of things I want to create!

Students print out their word art ravens, attach them to a sheet of black construction paper, along with their photo-name. Punch a hole somewhere and tie on their tag. After students share their work, scatter them over a b. board covered with aluminum foil, newsprint, or wrapping paper with a vintage look. I've provided a header that says: "Writing worth raving about." as well as one that says: "***Here's something to rave about: _____'s new students!***" Insert your name.

If this is too crafty for you, I've also made a 5-point "rave on" writing extension. Students could also comment or write about Poe's quote that I used in a mini poster, that you can throw up on the bulletin board There are bookmarks to match as well.

If you have older students, (8th -12th) have them listen to a rendition of the poem on YouTube. I've given you a list of 4 of my all-time favorites, complete with spooky sound affects. I've also included a writing prompt for this activity + 2 awesome raven photographs, that students can also ponder about.

Edgar Allan Poe's

Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered weak and weary,
Over many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore,
While I nodded, nearly napping, suddenly there came a tapping,
As of some one gently rapping, rapping at my chamber door.
'Tis some visitor,' I muttered, 'tapping at my chamber door -
Only this, and nothing more.'

Ah, distinctly I remember it was in the bleak December,
And each separate dying ember wrought its ghost upon the floor.
Eagerly I wished the morrow; - vainly I had sought to borrow
From my books surcease of sorrow - sorrow for the lost Lenore -
For the rare and radiant maiden whom the angels named Lenore -
Nameless here for evermore.

And the silken sad uncertain rustling of each purple curtain
Thrilled me - filled me with fantastic terrors never felt before;
So that now, to still the beating of my heart, I stood repeating
'Tis some visitor entreating entrance at my chamber door -
Some late visitor entreating entrance at my chamber door; -
This it is, and nothing more.'

Presently my soul grew stronger; hesitating then no longer,
'Sir,' said I, 'or Madam, truly your forgiveness I implore;
But the fact is I was napping, and so gently you came rapping,
And so faintly you came tapping, tapping at my chamber door,
That I scarce was sure I heard you' - here I opened wide the door; -
Darkness there, and nothing more.

Deep into that darkness peering, long I stood there wondering, fearing,
Doubting, dreaming dreams no mortal ever dared to dream before;
But the silence was unbroken, and the darkness gave no token,
And the only word there spoken was the whispered word, 'Lenore!'
This I whispered, and an echo murmured back the word, 'Lenore!'
Merely this and nothing more.

Back into the chamber turning, all my soul within me burning,
Soon again I heard a tapping somewhat louder than before.
'Surely,' said I, 'surely that is something at my window lattice;
Let me see then, what thereat is, and this mystery explore -
Let my heart be still a moment and this mystery explore; -
'Tis the wind and nothing more!'

Open here I flung the shutter, when, with many a flirt and flutter,
In there stepped a stately raven of the saintly days of yore.
Not the least obeisance made he; not a minute stopped or stayed he;
But, with mien of lord or lady, perched above my chamber door -
Perched upon a bust of Pallas just above my chamber door -
Perched, and sat, and nothing more.

Then this ebony bird beguiling my sad fancy into smiling,
By the grave and stern decorum of the countenance it wore,
'Though thy crest be shorn and shaven, thou,' I said, 'art sure no craven.
Ghastly grim and ancient raven wandering from the nightly shore -
Tell me what thy lordly name is on the Night's Plutonian shore!'
Quoth the raven, 'Nevermore.'

Much I marvelled this ungainly fowl to hear discourse so plainly,
Though its answer little meaning - little relevancy bore;
For we cannot help agreeing that no living human being
Ever yet was blessed with seeing bird above his chamber door -
Bird or beast above the sculptured bust above his chamber door,
With such name as 'Nevermore.'

But the raven, sitting lonely on the placid bust, spoke only,
That one word, as if his soul in that one word he did outpour.
Nothing further then he uttered - not a feather then he fluttered -
Till I scarcely more than muttered 'Other friends have flown before -
On the morrow he will leave me, as my hopes have flown before.'
Then the bird said, 'Nevermore.'



Straight I wheeled a cushioned seat in front of bird and bust and door;
Then, upon the velvet sinking, I betook myself to linking
Fancy unto fancy, thinking what this ominous bird of yore -
What this grim, ungainly, ghastly, gaunt, and ominous bird of yore
Meant in croaking 'Nevermore.'

Startled at the stillness broken by reply so aptly spoken,
'Doubtless,' said I, 'what it utters is its only stock and store,
Caught from some unhappy master whom unmerciful disaster
Followed fast and followed faster till his songs one burden bore -
Till the dirges of his hope that melancholy burden bore
Of 'Never-nevermore.'"

But the raven still beguiling all my sad soul into smiling,
Straight I wheeled a cushioned seat in front of bird and bust and door;
Then, upon the velvet sinking, I betook myself to linking
Fancy unto fancy, thinking what this ominous bird of yore -
What this grim, ungainly, ghastly, gaunt, and ominous bird of yore
Meant in croaking 'Nevermore.'

This I sat engaged in guessing, but no syllable expressing
To the fowl whose fiery eyes now burned into my bosom's core;
This and more I sat divining, with my head at ease reclining
On the cushion's velvet lining that the lamp-light gloated o'er,
But whose velvet violet lining with the lamp-light gloating o'er,
She shall press, ah, nevermore!

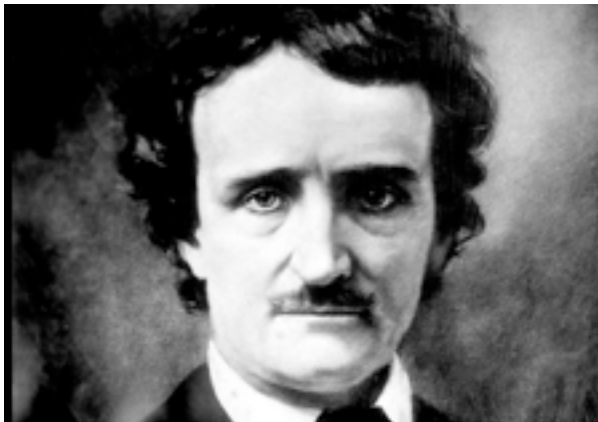
Then, methought, the air grew denser, perfumed from an unseen censer
Swung by Seraphim whose foot-falls tinkled on the tufted floor.
'Wretch,' I cried, 'thy God hath lent thee - by these angels he has sent thee
Respite - respite and nepenthe from thy memories of Lenore!
Quaff, oh quaff this kind nepenthe, and forget this lost Lenore!'
Quoth the raven, 'Nevermore.'

'Prophet!' said I, 'thing of evil! - prophet still, if bird or devil! -
Whether tempter sent, or whether tempest tossed thee here ashore,
Desolate yet all undaunted, on this desert land enchanted -
On this home by horror haunted - tell me truly, I implore -
Is there - *is* there balm in Gilead? - tell me - tell me, I implore!'
Quoth the raven, 'Nevermore.'

'Prophet!' said I, 'thing of evil! - prophet still, if bird or devil!
By that Heaven that bends above us - by that God we both adore -
Tell this soul with sorrow laden if, within the distant Aidenn,
It shall clasp a sainted maiden whom the angels named Lenore -
Clasp a rare and radiant maiden whom the angels named Lenore?'
Quoth the raven, 'Nevermore.'

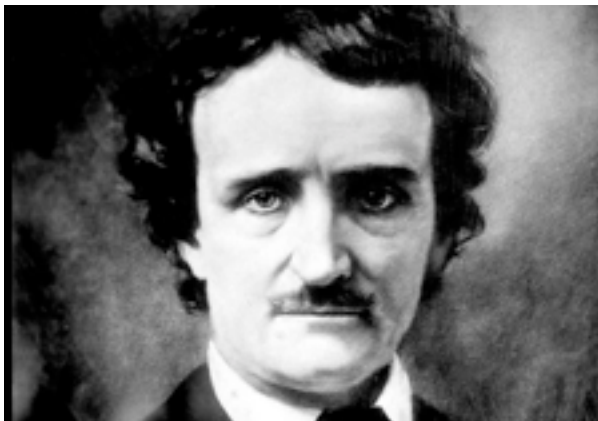
'Be that word our sign of parting, bird or fiend!' I shrieked upstarting -
'Get thee back into the tempest and the Night's Plutonian shore!
Leave no black plume as a token of that lie thy soul hath spoken!
Leave my loneliness unbroken! - quit the bust above my door!
Take thy beak from out my heart, and take thy form from off my door!'
Quoth the raven, 'Nevermore.'

And the raven, never flitting, still is sitting, still is sitting
On the pallid bust of Pallas just above my chamber door;
And his eyes have all the seeming of a demon's that is dreaming,
And the lamp-light o'er him streaming throws his shadow on the floor;
And my soul from out that shadow that lies floating on the floor
Shall be lifted - nevermore!



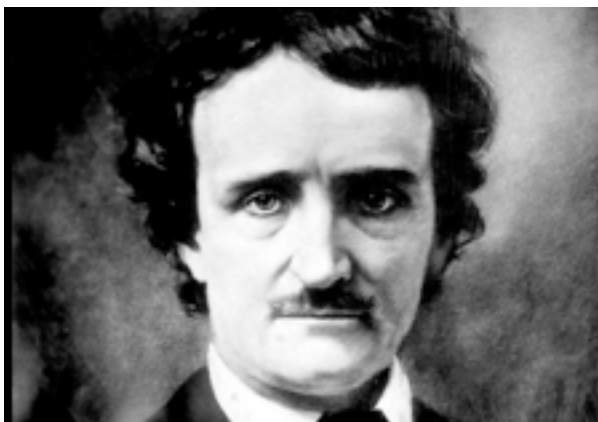
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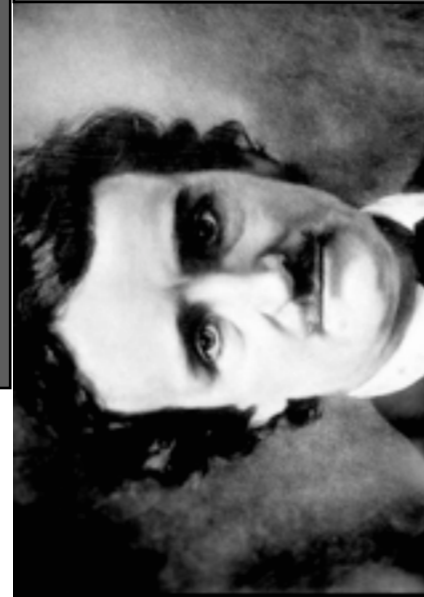


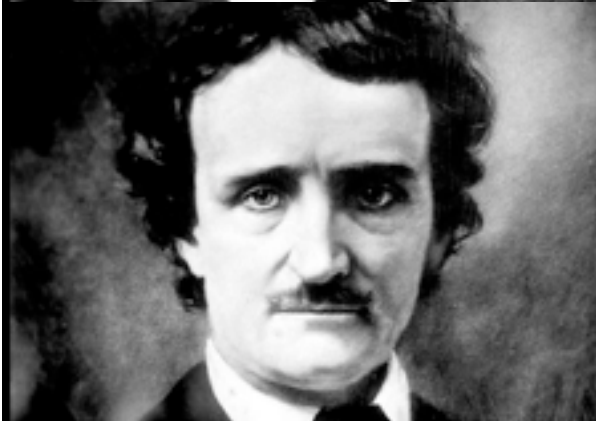
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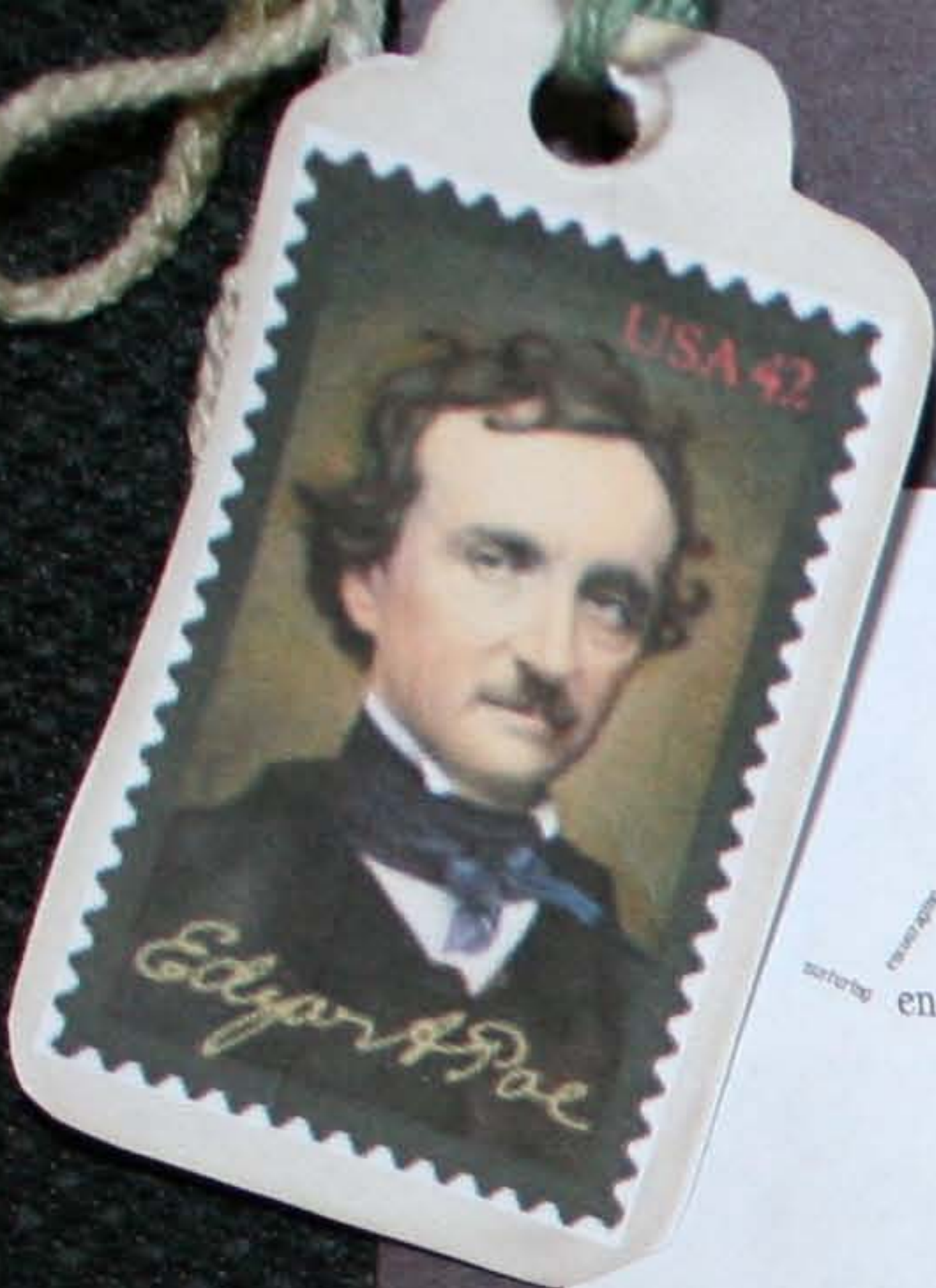
—Edgar Allan Poe—

A black and white portrait of a man with dark, wavy hair and a prominent mustache. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a dark tie. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The background is dark and out of focus.



Here's something to rave about:

new students!



Kelly

A large, diagonal word cloud on a light background. The words are arranged in a sweeping arc from the upper left towards the lower right. The most prominent words, shown in larger fonts, include: Kind, energetic, generous, smart, creative, nurturing, caring, happy, detailed, and dedicated. Other words interspersed throughout the cloud include: encouraging, smart, kind, happy, energetic, creative, nurturing, caring, detailed, and dedicated. The words are in various shades of gray and black, creating a textured, layered effect.



Pop your b. board by running these off on ivory construction paper. Punch a hole and add a jute tie. Students "earn" a tag when they have given their best effort and completed the writing assignment. The stamp clip is from an original US postage stamp. The tag clip is from: <http://freedigiscrapbookelements.blogspot.com/2012/02/tag-directory-page-1.html>

Writing
worth raving about!

Writing
worth raving about!

Use this as a header for a writing bulletin board.

Flank with the left and right ravens.

You can also print off a bunch of these and use them as a top and bottom border.

Have these ravens flank your
"Writing worth raving about" header.

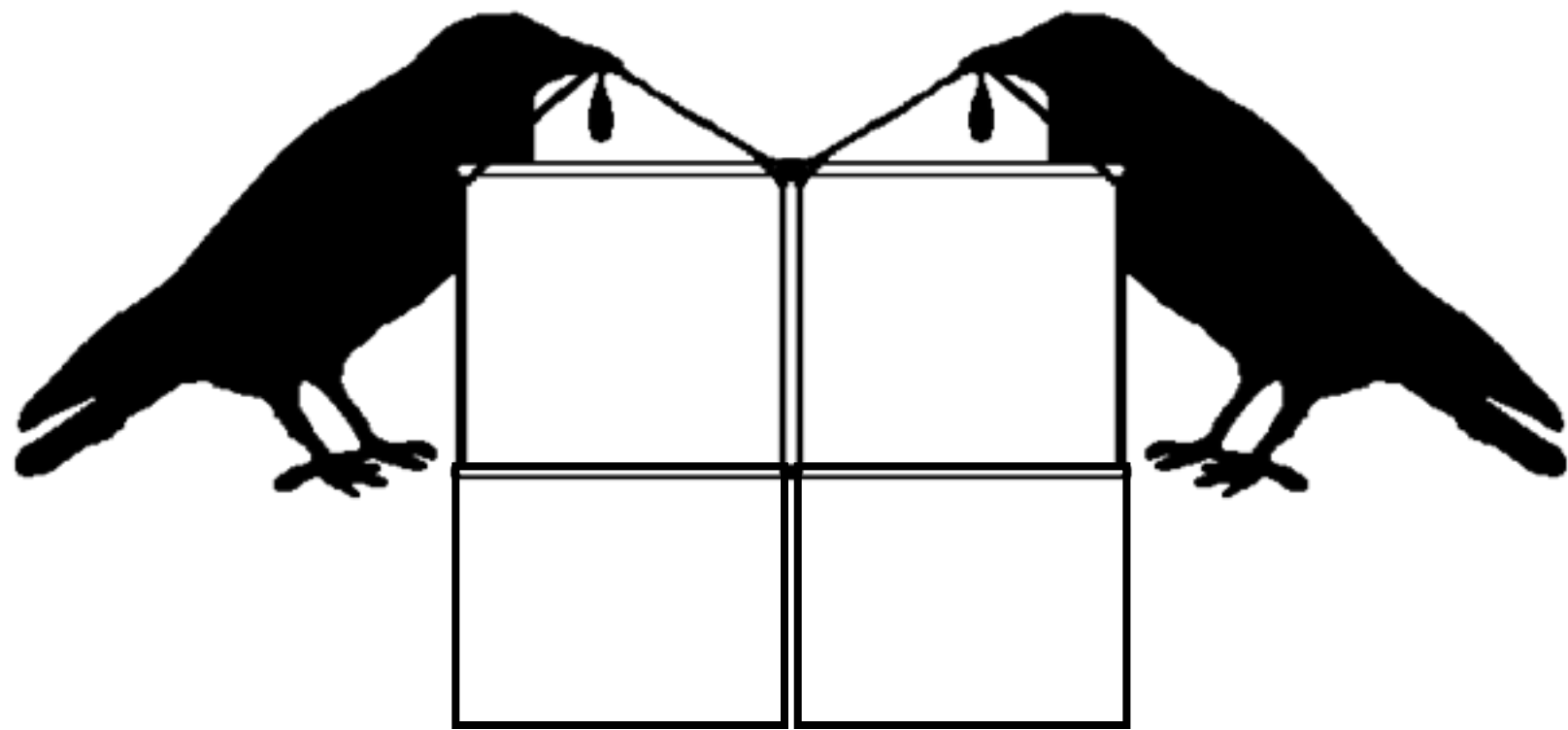




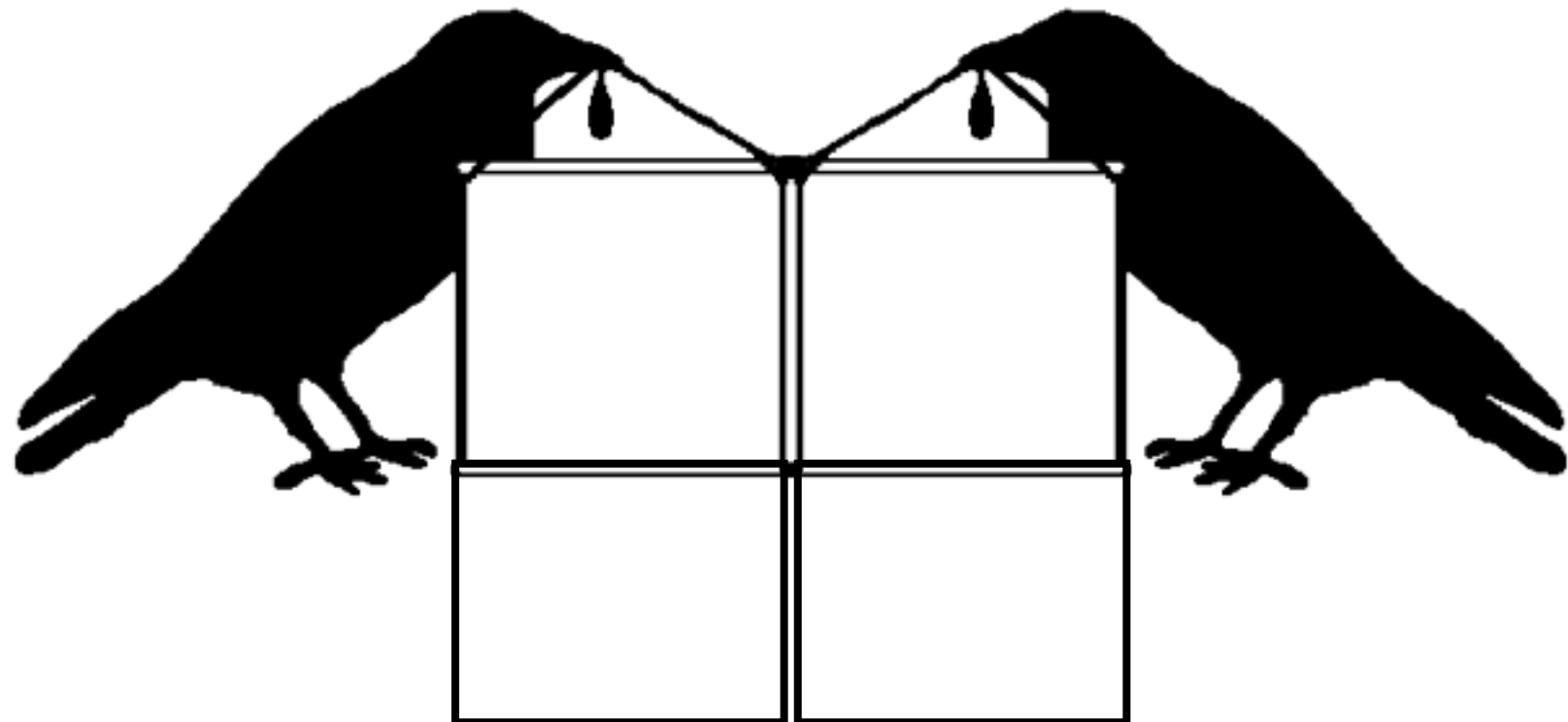


Tagxedo Directions

1. Type in the link. This will take you to their home page.
2. Click on "Start now" button in the purple box.
3. Install the Tagxedo creator.
4. You will then go to the Tagxedo "Creator" page.
5. Click "Load" on the menu to the left.
6. Click in the "enter text" box and type in the words that you want to use.
7. They only appear as SINGLE words so do not type in a sentence or phrase.
8. If you'd like certain words to appear larger in your word art, then type those words in several times into the "load" section.
9. The more the word is typed, the bigger that word will appear on your wordart.
10. Click "submit"
11. Click on "theme" for color choices.
12. Choose one. I chose black on white.
13. Click on "font" scroll down and choose one. I chose Little Trouble Girl.
14. Click on "shape" Choose one of their options, or click on "Add image" and import mine.
15. I have put a raven silhouette in the packet. This is a PDF. You need to change this to a jpeg so it can be imported. Save it to your desktop so that you can easily find it.
16. Click "save" I chose 250KP jpeg.
17. Click print to print your word art.
18. I like working in Safari as sometimes Firefox has given me probs on this site.
19. This is the "quick" version of a "how to" and all you really need to make a word picture. I'm sure there are lots of bells and whistles that I haven't explored.
20. Be sure and click on their "learn" tab on their home page for some awesome ideas.
21. I hope you have as much fun with this site as I do!
22. Enjoy and happy creating.



There are 4 student picture posts here. Simply cut down the middle to separate.
I wanted you to be able to print as many as you could from 1 page.





Write 5 things about yourself worth raving about.
Put a heart by the one that brings you the most joy.

1

2

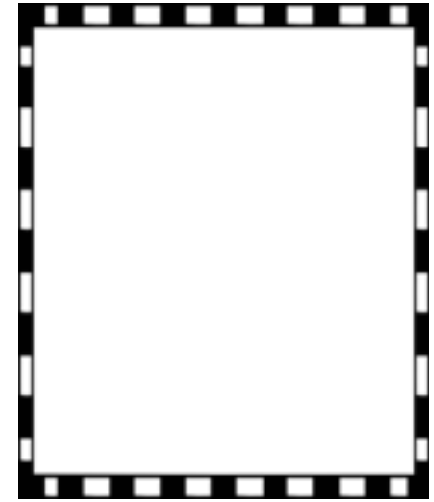
3

4

5



I'd like to improve!
These are things
I'll try not to do anymore:

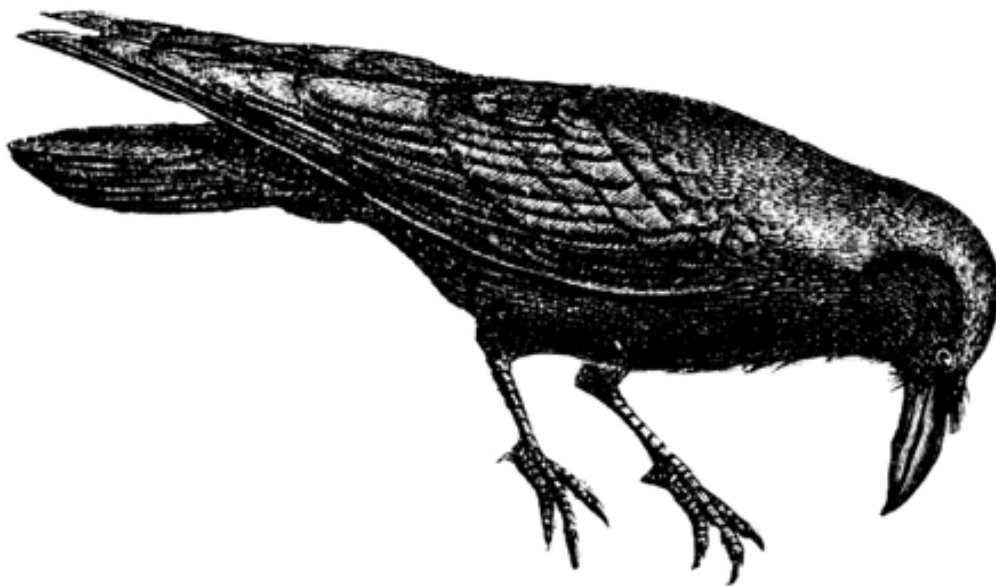




Nevermore Nevermore Nevermore Nevermore Nevermore Nevermore



Things my students have decided won't happen in our class:



The Raven On YouTube

If you'd like to have your students listen to Poe's The Raven poem being read, these are my favorite top 4 readers on YouTube.

You could have your students listen to the entire reading from one, and then a short excerpt of the others and vote on which reading they enjoyed the most and why.

Instead of discussing their choice, you could have them write about it. Set the mood by playing some creepy classical music, rainstorm sound affects, or organ music from The Phantom of the Opera.

These 1st two are only audio, no visual renderings are included. You may want your students to close their eyes and lay their heads down to enjoy it better.

Christopher Walken reading The Raven. He has the perfect voice for this poem. Includes some creepy sound effects too. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cLSmhpwLdEQ>

James Earl Jones Reads The Raven with creepy piano background music. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UNjrf1RKlvM>

These next two include visuals:

Vincent Price reading The Raven with thunderstorm background sound affects. Price is dressed in clothes typical of Poe and throws in a dramatic flair. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T7zR3fDEHrM>

This is a great visual video! Great background affects. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U7MV39iivFE>

The Raven
On YouTube



My favorite rendition of the poem was . . .



AlicePopkorn

Photo credit: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/alicepopkorn/5946135646/> AlicePopkorn / <http://foter.com> Foter / <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd/2.0/> CC BY-ND



Searching for the wisdom of the past.