



WHO KILLED EDGAR ALLEN POE?
A MURDER MYSTERY PROJECT
SECOND TRIMESTER 7TH GRADE ELA

DRIVING QUESTION:

CAN YOU SOLVE THE CASE?

How can we use our critical thinking skills and reading comprehension to solve the murder of Edgar Allen Poe?



SETTING THE SCENE:

*Poe has been murdered, and it's up to **YOU** to figure out who killed him. Participate in the Quest as one of Edgar Allan Poe's critics, Mark Twain or Rufus Griswold, or as one of the following characters from his works: Lenore, Annabel Lee, the Raven, the Person from "The Tell-Tale Heart," Montresor from "The Cask of Amontillado," the Red Death, and Auguste Dupin from "The Murders in the Rue Morgue."*

You must investigate the crime scene and interrogate the other characters in order to find and interpret clues and ultimately solve the mystery. The Quest is also loosely based on Poe's real life mysterious death, which to this day has not been solved.

CONTENT COVERED:

Teaching 7th grade standards to solve an engaging mystery!

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.1 Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.10 By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, in the grades 6–8 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.

Short Stories	Poetry	Nonfiction
"The Tell-Tale Heart"	"Annabel Lee"	Mark Twain and Rufus Griswold's scathing reviews of Poe's work
"The Cask of Amontillado"	"The Raven"	
"The Masque of the Red Death"		

PRESENTATION: Students will work together to propose a prime suspect: who they think killed Poe! Students will present their argument to the class as a group, and individually, students will turn in a written proposal explaining the reasoning behind their answer.