Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Use this graphic organizer to help you answer this question: **“How did the events of Poe’s life influence his writing?”** For each work of literature, identify events in Poe’s life that may have inspired him to write “The Raven,” “Annabel Lee,” and “The Tell Tale Heart.”

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Work of Literature** | **Life Experiences** |
| “The Raven” |  |
| “Annabel Lee”* Lines 38-40 “So all the night tide…”
* Line 9-10 “We loved with a love…”
* Line 15 “wind chilling and killing my Annabel Lee…”
* Line 7 “I was a child…”
 | * Poe Lays on Virginia’s grave
* He loved Virginia. Wrote to his aunt about how much he loved her.
* Virginia dies of consumption
* They are married when Virginia is 12
* Poe tried to immortalize women in his poetry because he thought they deserved that respect.
 |
| “The Tell Tale Heart”* Narrator says that he hates the old man’s eye
* Narrator kills the old man
 | * He hated all male, father figures (biological father, step father)
* John Allan is on his death bed and refuses to give Poe any inheritance
* Poe is not allowed to take Allan as his last name- Hence Edgar **Allan** Poe
 |
|  |  |

Your Name Date

Ms. Staehle ELA

The Life of Edgar Allan Poe

(Times New Roman, Font Size 12, Double Spaced)

Often in Literature authors find inspiration for their writing by looking at their own life experiences. Authors will commonly draw upon their proudest moments or most horrifying memories for creative ideas. Such is the case for American author, Edgar Allan Poe. **The life events of Edgar Allan Poe greatly influenced the style and content of his work.** *There are many common themes that are seen time and again in Poe’s writing.*

**One common theme that appears in Poe’s literature is the Old man-father figure.** This figure is usually seen as evil and unwanted by others. This is probably because he seemed to hate all the men in his life. Poe’s natural father, David Poe, died in 1910 at the age of 36 when Edgar was only one year old. He was left with his pregnant mother who was an actress. Their family struggled very much. Later Poe said that he felt deserted by his natural father. Poe despised his stepfather, John Allen. They argued frequently and John rarely showed his affection toward Edgar. “…[He] even described his son as ‘miserable, sulky, and ill-tempered.’”The Allen’s moved to Virginia, then London, and eventually, after John’s company went under, to New York. Edgar had bitter feelings toward John because of all the relocating. This anger towards his step-father made an appearance in Poe’s most famous short story, “The Tell Tale Heart.” In the short story, the narrator finds himself hating the old man he lives with and is driven crazy by his “vulture” eye. Eventually, he becomes so overwhelmed with hatred over this eye that he decides to kill the old man. Though Poe did not murder his step-father, he did despise him and used his writing as an outlet for these feelings.

Introduction:

* Background information about Poe.
* Thesis Statement about how his life influenced his writing. (in bold)
* Topic Sentence about what will be covered in the essay (in italics)

Body Paragraph: One for each work by Poe (Total of 3 Body Paragraphs)

* Topic Sentence (in bold)
* What occurs in that work of literature
* What in Poe’s life influenced this

Conclusion

* Thesis Statement about how Poe’s life influenced his writing.
* Summary of what was covered in the essay.