

# The Raven

Edgar Allan Poe

**How does the repeated word “nevermore” change from an answer into a trap for the speaker’s thinking?**

| TOTAL TIME | TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION |
|------------|---------------------------|
| 30 minutes | Poem - complete poem      |

## TEACHER SETUP

Open the work in the Enhanced Reader and cue the span using the START and END anchors below.

|            |                                                                                                 |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| START      | Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary,                                  |
| END        | And my soul from out that shadow that lies floating on the floor / Shall be lifted - nevermore! |
| PASSAGE ID | sec-raven-01                                                                                    |

## THE MOVE

Track how repetition changes meaning because the surrounding questions change

## WHY THIS PASSAGE

The raven says essentially one word, but the speaker supplies new contexts for it. What begins as an odd refrain becomes a verdict on loss, memory, reunion, and hope. The repetition therefore reveals as much about the speaker’s escalating interpretation as about the bird.

## MARK

Circle several appearances of “nevermore.” Beside each, write what question or idea immediately precedes it. Underline the point where the speaker begins asking questions whose answers he fears.

## NOTICE

- Does the raven’s answer actually become more specific?
- What changes: the bird’s language or the speaker’s questions?
- Why is the final “nevermore” no longer merely something the bird says?

## THINK

Answer provisionally: How does the repeated word “nevermore” change from an answer into a trap for the speaker’s thinking? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

## WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response. Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

## CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.

## STRONG ANSWER

“Nevermore” becomes a trap because the raven does not need to change its answer; the speaker changes the questions until the same word confirms his worst fears. By the end, the refrain has been absorbed into the speaker’s own vision of permanent grief.

## EVIDENCE

Compare an early use of “nevermore” with a later question about loss or hope.

## WATCH FOR

Do not claim that the raven proves supernatural knowledge. The instructional focus is how the speaker creates increasingly devastating meanings around an unchanged word.

## SOLO

Read independently.

## SUPPORTED

Narration + highlighting.

## LISTENING

Listen; same evidence task.

## STUDENT PAGE · GRADE 9 · LESSON 296

# The Raven

Edgar Allan Poe

**How does the repeated word “nevermore” change from an answer into a trap for the speaker’s thinking?**

|      |           |
|------|-----------|
| WORK | The Raven |
|------|-----------|

|                           |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION | Poem - complete poem |
| PASSAGE ID                | sec-raven-01         |

Your teacher will open or cue the work in the Enhanced Reader. Use the location and verbatim anchors below to confirm the assigned span.

### START

Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary,

### END

And my soul from out that shadow that lies floating on the floor / Shall be lifted - nevermore!

READ / LISTEN TO THE ASSIGNED PASSAGE SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration and highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the assigned passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK Circle several appearances of “nevermore.” Beside each, write what question or idea immediately precedes it. Underline the point where the speaker begins asking questions whose answers he fears.
2. NOTICE Does the raven’s answer actually become more specific? What changes: the bird’s language or the speaker’s questions? Why is the final “nevermore” no longer merely something the bird says?
3. THINK Answer provisionally: How does the repeated word “nevermore” change from an answer into a trap for the speaker’s thinking?
4. WRITE Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.
5. CLOSE Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.