

Lincoln Park Academy 9th Grade Pre-IB Summer Reading Assignment

For the 2024-2025 school year at LPA, all incoming 9th graders will read a selection of short stories over the summer and complete an assignment for each. The required reading is three Edgar Allen Poe stories of their choice.

Assignment One: Edgar Allen Poe Short Stories

Choose THREE of the Edgar Allen Poe short stories from the list below to read and complete **Assignment One**.

Short Story Options:

The Black Cat

The Pit and the Pendulum

The Tell-Tale Heart

The Cask of Amontillado

The Masque of the Red Death

The Purloined Letter

The short stories can be read here: [Stories by Edgar Allan Poe, The Tell-Tale Heart, The Black Cat, and more \(poestories.com\)](#) or here: [Poe's Complete Works \(poemuseum.org\)](#).

*Students can also access the approved Savvas textbook digital library, which includes "The Works of Edgar Allen Poe" and includes all these stories. They can be read digitally.

After reading, use the chart on page three to identify examples of each gothic genre element. Make sure to provide a quoted example (in MLA format) and explanation. Students can either recreate the chart in Microsoft Word OR they can print and fill in the chart ****You do not need to complete a plot diagram for these short stories.***

Overview:

Students must read three short stories and complete the required assignment. The assignment is due on the first day of school! No exceptions! This will be a **formative grade. If assignments are not turned in on time, the grade will become an automatic **50%**. The deadline for summer reading is Friday, August 18th.**

Plagiarism: All work that you complete must be your own. Summer reading is not a group or partner assignment, nor can you copy from websites, such as Sparknotes, Cliffnotes, or any other website that may provide answers. Work that is plagiarized will earn a 0%. There will be no exceptions.

Assignment ONE: Edgar Allan Poe Short Stories *Feel free to recreate the chart, make it bigger, etc., but keep the assigned prompts. Please see examples of each prompt below the chart.

Gothic Elements	Short Story Title #1	Short Story Title #2	Short Story Title #3
<p>Decay: A spooky castle or large home in poor state of repair; haunted or cursed, forbidden passageways or tunnels, built in a gothic era</p>			
<p>Bad weather: gloomy, rainy, dark, wind, storms and thunder, fog, snow, lightning, or mist</p>			
<p>The Supernatural ghosts, monsters, witches or sorcerers, vampires, not a ghost, but more villain-like.</p>			
<p>The Protagonist Isolated, has a troubled past, heroic</p>			

Edgar Allan Poe Chart Examples:

Bad Weather	<p>“During the whole of a dull, dark, and soundless day in the autumn of the year, when the clouds hung oppressively low in the heavens” (Poe 13).</p> <p>This excerpt is the first sentence from Poe’s short story, “The Fall of the House of Usher”. The narrator is describing the setting as he arrives at the House of Usher. The clouds hanging “oppressively low” create a foreboding mood and a sense of being trapped and out of control of one’s surroundings, which is in line with the gothic genre.</p>
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