

Name: _____
Period: _____
Date: _____

The Tell-Tale Heart
Literary Response and Analysis Questions

Directions:

Read each question carefully and then respond to each thoughtfully, correctly, and completely. Responses are worth two points each.

1. From what point of view is Poe's story told? Why is this point of view particularly effective for "The Tell-Tale Heart"?

2. Point to details in the story that identify its speaker as an unreliable narrator. Provide actual textual support and citations.

3. What do we know about the old man in the story? What motivates the narrator to kill him?

4. In spite of all his precautions, the narrator does not commit the perfect crime. What trips him up?

5. How do you account for the police officers chatting calmly with the murderer instead of reacting to the sound that stirs the murderer into a frenzy?