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The pit and the pendulum symbols

The Pit and the Pendulum (1832) is one of Edgar Allan Poe's most famous gothic stories, offering plenty of literary appeal and a particularly graphic story. We hope this learning guide is useful for teachers and students to better evaluate the story. Read the story: The Pit and the Pendulum, Character Analysis & Plot Summary, Genre & Themes, Symbolism, Epigraph & Vocabulary, Inaccurate Historical Context, Quotes, Discussion Questions, Paired Readings, Useful Links, and Notes/Teacher Comments

Characters Unnamed Prisoner - The nian is sentenced to death by sinister judges, allegedly in the Spanish Inquiry, who held him in a prison hell Judge - Seven judges condemned inmates General Lasalle, General of Napoleon, who rescued inquisition prisoners from his tortures in a short time. Mice - The unlikely heroes of the story, who chew the bounds of the prisoner loosely so that he can escape the pendulum descending before it cuts him to death. The Cell – OK, the prison cell is not a character per se, but it is a mysterious, transformed (and narrow) torture chamber that makes for an interesting dynamic in the story. Nevermind the scariest feature, a glowing pit of fire. Plot summary The story of the heightened horrors experienced by an unnamed prisoner in a torture room, sentenced to death by sinister judges of the Spanish Inquest Court. In complete darkness, he tries to measure the size of the slimy cell with a torn part of his robe, seeing a mural of Father Time and a knife pendulum from the ceiling gradually going down to his seemingly certain death. He is completely bound to a wooden plank, except for his left elbow to the hand, which is enough to drink a drink and eat, before scattering the meat on the straps to entice the rat to gnaw his way to freedom, just as the pendulum makes the body exposed. The walls become red-hot, the room shrinks him so he has nowhere to go beyond the melting iron pit, when all the trumpets suddenly sound and the French Army, General Lasalle at the wheel, rescues him from the evil Inquisition prison. Happy ending? As good as can be expected in Poe's sensory thriller - or is it all an illusion tripped up by mental illness? The symbolism of angels turns into the senseless spectres

Genre Poe story that is in the darkest range of Dark Romanticism, in the Gothic Literature genre due to its focus on pure terror, complete despair and physical torture. Poe has applied his personally ill personal experience to the classics of the works, so readers become angry, obsessed with death and supernatural. The gift of to write about his own pain - both physical and metasymed - keep his readers coming back for more. Physical Torture Theme: Unlike many of Poe's stories, Poe, and The Pendulum focuses on physical terror and torture of the senses, more than supernatural or psychological horror, for which he is revered as a master. Religious persecution (Spanish Inquisition) vs political persecution (French Revolution): Both periods in history are references, because Poe wants us to remember that persecution can be for many reasons. Maybe that's why he didn't specify the reason for the sentence. Maybe it's the mental abuse in the prisoner's head that's the true story? Literary elements

Obsession with sound: Poe uses the art of physical depiction and vivid feeling to keep his readers on the edge of our seats reading this story. We can feel the texture of the floor and the ground while crawling around the perimeter of the cell with him, feeling the panic of the pendulum descending, ú up, his completely compulsive stillness and the sound of rodents loosening the meat-scented straps , the horror of discovering what was contained in the pit, the melting torture chamber shrinking and my soul found the vent in a loud, long, and final scream of despair. We feel, see, smell, and especially sound like he does... and it never stops ... Until we hear the rescue trumpet! Symbols: Poe uses several symbols and symbols, see the next Section

Negative: The repetition of identical or similar toy is peppered through the story, which increases our perception of sound. For example, deep sleep, hum of human voice, root of crescent

ALL CAPS: Techniques that prove poe highlight keywords for us in all capital letters are very effective. Compared to screaming, influence is a high sense of our senses along with the prisoners! Here's the order in which they appear in the story. See what you do for them: **REVOLUTION THINKS NOTHING SUDDENLY HISSED HERE HOPING TO THINK THE ONLY SAVINGS IN THE WAY OF THE DESTRUCTIVE CRESCENT ARE STILL FREE I WAS NOT REALISTIC! FORM INTO THE PIT** A rat board gnaws british FREE Poe using multiple symbols or allusions that are useful to understand their purpose. Rats represent hope and potential for freedom when all hope seems lost. Prisoners see their potential; The pests have been converted from attackers of terror to abetting agents of their escape. Candles: Representing the jury and time; They have transformed from symbols of angels into meaningless ghosts that will be burned as well as any hopes of escaping or surviving from the torture chamber. Pendulum: The torture device is designed to slowly descend until it kills its victim representing Time (Poe mentions the Father Time mural on the ceiling makes this easy), and also surrenders, or mind change-

from hope to despair that vibrates his sense of terror. He personification of the device produces a noising noise, which means torturing his people. Finally, a pendulum is very similar to a guillotine in and functions where gravity does not kill in either case. Pit: May be a symbol of hell, the greatest torture of all to be burned in a melting pit of iron. The prisoner erroneously pits for a well at first (cool), only to discover it burned itself while reasoning my shiver. Spanish Inquisition & Judge: Could his persecution be a symbol of the n ed n n ni person's mental illness? Indeed, the transformative torture department, convicted of in-person allegations, inaccurate historical accounts, may be Poe's way of expressing the whole story as struggle, fear and valiant attempts to escape mental illness. This point is a reach, but we'll throw it out there for you to ponder. Pendulum as a scimitarThe Epigraph Sets the Tone What is open quotation called? First, let's exclude a symbol as a brief, smart saying, for which this is not; 100% witty or concise. The difference between an epitaph and an epigraph: Both are profound quotes, poems or reports, differences related to where they appear. An epitaph is etched on a headstone or plaque; a letter appeared at the opening ceremony of a literary work. In this case, the Latin phrase at the beginning of the story is a symbol, because although Poe claims it will be engraved on the gates of the Jacobin Club (see historical context section incorrectly for more), it never is (if it were, that would make it an epitaph). Now, to what it means. Poe chose to write calli into Latin, popular for literary works from the Renaissance to the 19th century. His aim may be to persuade his readers the story is set in the Spanish Survey, albeit at least three centuries later (see section below: Historical Context Incorrect). Translation:This is an unholy crowd of torture with an ins degreesque thirst for innocent blood, once eating their long frenzy. Now our homeland is safe, funeral caves are destroyed, and lives and health appear where horrific deaths once were. The crowd of non-jihadist torture refers to the Radical French Jacobin Club, which leads the Revolutionary government known as the Reign of Terror. Enemies of both the Church and atheist, they oppressed their enemies with guillotines, and were eventually defeated by unified republicanism in France. We can assume funeral caves refer to their persecution, and that the prisoners were eventually freed after they were conquered (life and health appeared). While the letter seemed to provide a CliffsNotes of the story, Poe deliberately kept the specifics of the inmates' allegations, beliefs and reasons for torture from the reader. Interesting vocabulary: A side strap, often referring to what would run under a horse's belly to hold a plate on the spot. In this case, the straps are used to make prisoners erl on boardscimitar: a short word with a curved bent Poe compares the swinging pendulum to a scimitarcre: again, describing the pendulum, a razor-like crescent... designed to cross the area of the heart. a fit of ague: malaria or some other disease with symptoms of fever and trembling ultrasound: two meanings imply hopelessness and hope at the same time: 1) inescapable of defeating General Lasalle to the rescue, if we believe that historical references of PoeThe torture lasted three centuries and two countries , which Poe mixed together for considerable great influence. Poe professionally used the technique of The Narrator.The Spanish Inquisition began in the 1470s in Spain and its territories to enforce the transition to Catholicism, brutal torture for those who did not comply. About 150,000 people have been charged, 3,000 - 5,000 are believed to be executed. Literary references may have exaggerated the level of torture, which makes it an effective reference in this story. Toledo: Poe refers to his position as Toledo, (last example: The French army entered Toledo.) This is a notorious Spanish torture prison. The Jacobin Club came to power in the 1790s after the fall of the French monarchy during the Revolution, which became more radical and extorted their enemies with guillotines, known as the Reign of Terror. Note: Poe's reference to the crowd of unsymincis torture when told in calligraphy is to jacobin club oppressors, not Spanish Infort Court judges (see Epigraph & Vocabulary section above). General Lasalle, who came to the rescue of prisoners with calvary and French trumpets, served under Napoleon during the Napoleonic Wars (France, Spain, Prussia). He had a short career as a daring explorer, fought on all fronts, assaulted many enemies, and died in the Battle of Wagram in 1809. Could he actually be in Spain to rescue our prisoners? Maybe, but not in the Spanish investigation, that's for sure. Did Poe deliberately mislead his readers with good buzz words to refer to torture, or was he proving that prisoners may not grasp the fact his story may not be credible because of his mental illness – torture inside his head, rather than his physical body? Edgar Allan PoeExplain what the following quotes mean and how they relate to the story: I saw the lips of the judges dressed in black. They appeared to me whitemer than the sheet of paper that I watched these words - and thin even to the odd; thin with the intensity of their manifestation of hardness, estuous resolution, stern contempt of human torture. Then my vision fell on seven candles high on the table. At first they wore aspects of charity, and apparently angels White apricot who will save me: but then all at once there is a most deadly nausea on my spirit, and I feel every strand in my frame thrilled, as if I had touched the wire a galvanized battery, while the angel form became meaningless spectres, with the head of the fire, and I found that from them there would be no help. Perhaps the proof that your sentence is insane? The shadows of memories that speak unclearly about the high numbers have lifted and bored me in silence - down - still down - until a disgusting dizziness oppresses me with only the idea of the continuity of descent. They also told of a vague horror in my heart because of the un natural vein of that heart. Then comes a sudden sense of eru estate throughout everything; as if the people who carried me (a terrible train!) were running faster, in their descent, the limits of limitlessness, and pausing from the wearisomeness of their toil. I later called to the flat and wet mind; and then all is MADNESS - the madness of a memory that busy itself among forbidden things. In other conditions of mind I may have had the courage to end my suffering at the same time by plunging into one of the abyss; but now I'm the veriest of cowards. I also can't forget what I've read about these pits – that the sudden extinction of life is not part of their most terrible plan. However, I trembled in every nerve to think how mild a sinking of the machine would precipitate that sparkling axe of interest upon my chest. That hope has driven nerves to tremble - the frame shrinks. It is HOPE - hoping that victory on the rack - whispers to convicted death even in the dungeon of the Inquisition. It is HOPE - hoping that victory on the rack - whispers to convicted death even in the dungeon of the Inquisition. The result of the smallest struggle, how deadly! It is likely, moreover, that the heath of torture did not foescapable and give this possibility! Is it possible to cross my chest watching the pendulum? Scared to find my faintness, and, as it may seem, my last hope of disappointment, I so far raised my head as to get a separate view of my breasts. The surcingle enveloped my limbs and my body closed in all directions saving IN THE WAY of the destructive crescent moon... With more resolution than humans I lie STILL. Nor have I made mistakes in my calculations, nor have I endured in vain. I feel free." Death,' I said 'any death, but that's the pit! Foo! I may not know that on the pit it is the object of iron burning to urge me? Can I resist its light? or even if that, can I withstand the pressure of it? There is a hum of harmony of human voices! There's a big explosion like that of many trumpets! There is a net as harsh as that of a thousand thunders! Any death but a pit! 1. The meaning of the letter and it important aspects of the story?2. Why Poe provided discrete historical references, leading us to believe that prisoners are being tortured in the Spanish Inquiry (which began in when referent to the Jacobin Club and general Lasalle's rescue would be during the Napoleonic Wars, no earlier than the 1790s? 3. Describe the prisoner's constantly changing torture chamber, starting with pitch-black, when he uses a piece of his robe as a marker to assess its perimeter. all the way to its shrumken, melting form before his rescue.4. Why did Poe choose a pendulum and not a guillotine, which is a more common tool of torture (in both historical periods)? For extra credit: identify the many ways Poe describes pendulums (e.g., a sparkling axe, destructive crescent)5. Analyzing Poe's use of capital words throughout the story, analyzing the importance, meaning, and meaning of order (if any).6. How does this story represent dark romanticism? What is the representation of Gothic Literature?7. Identify and discuss the use of Poe's symbols in the story. Includes rats, candles, pendulums, pits and any other symbols you discover (presumably surcingle/quai).8. Discuss the use of Poe's senses, especially sound, as a literary device and its role in the torture of prisoners (more than other senses). Provide written evidence.9. Is there any spiritual component to the story, or all of the worldly life and death? Be sure to discuss the use of soul references.10. Explain the King of Terror reference (second to last paragraph). Essay reminder: Discussing mathematics in the story - calculating the shape and circatferness of the original cell (53 or 54 steps or yards?), its volume is based on what you know about the shrinking height of the ceiling, the area shrinking when the walls are flat to the acute angle, turning the form to a lozenge. Also discuss the pendulum's loop, its scan (30 feet or more), its location (in the right corner to the length of the prisoner), guess its original proportions, and any other mathematical speculations that catch your fancy. (Diagram your findings.) If you want to talk about physics, discuss the friction of the pendulum. The Fall of the House of Usher: EntombmentCompare and contrasts the gothic literary elements in The Pit and Pendulum with:Poe's The Fall of the House of Usher is a journey of psychological terror, rather than the physical terror of this story of the senses. The RavenAn Occurrence of Poe at Owl Creek Bridge uses pendulum as a symbol representing both time and a tool of torture and death. Compare its symbols in both stories. You choose: Choose a gothic story by a different author (try our Gothic, Ghost, Horror & Weird Library) and compare its genre, theme & literary elements of terrorism with The Pit and Pendulum.Movie tie-in: Watch the movie 2012 The Raven, starring John Cusack as Edgar Allan Poe, with a pit and pendulum chain, compares its effects of terrorism to the story.Compare the epigraph in this story to the one offered Enter maelstrom in tone, theme, and influence the reader as an appetized dish for the story. A Descent Into the MaelstromA Teacher's Work Is Never Done! Please share your lesson plan, discussion questions, or pitfalls to avoid while teaching this work, in pursuit of our common interests that help many students enjoy reading classical literature! 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