THE STRANGE CASE OF HOTEL MORGUE

inspired by Edgar Allan Poe

Students Worksheets

CASA DEL CONTEMPORANEO
CENTRO DI PRODUZIONE TEATRALE

The PLAY GROUP

Students material for Hotel Morgue

This material is designed to help you to prepare for the performance *The Strange Case of Hotel Morgue* by The Play Group.

This is version 1.2 of the students worksheets. Click on the icon to check for the latest version.

1. Important vocabulary of Hotel Morgue

angry
au revoir
arm
aunt
barman
beautiful
bonjour
clue
cook
cup
daughter
dead
death
detective
doctor
eye
father
ferocious
gardener
glass
hair
hairbrush
head
hotel
husband
investigator
knot
leg
letter
madame ⟷ signora
manager
money
monsieur
moon
morgue
mother
murder
musician
nephew
news
niece
policeman
possession
question

rich
room
blood
rope
sailor
same
son
strong
suspect
testament
tired
to ask
to cut
to describe
to discover
to die
to find (found-found)
to hear
to kill
to help
to leave (left-left)
to listen
to live
to look
to look for
to love
to know
to open
to read
to remember
to understand
to work
to write (wrote-written)
uncle
waiter
weather
werewolf
wife
testamento ⟷ will
wine
with / without
wolf

aiutare, albergo, amare, aprire, arrabbiato, arrivederci, ascoltare, barista, bello (a), bicchiere, braccio, buongiorno, cameriere, capelli, capire, cercare, chiedere, con / senza, corda, cuoco, descrivere,direttore, domanda, dottore, feroce, figlia, figlio, forte, gamba, giardiniere, guardare, indiziato, indizio, investigatore (x2), lasciare, lavorare, leggere, lettera, luna, lupo, madre, mannaro, marinaio, marito, meteo (il tempo), moglie, morire, morte, morto (a), musicista, nipote, nipotina, nodo, notizie, obitorio, occhio, omicidio, padre, poliziotto, possedimento (beni), ricca, sangue, soprire, scrivere, sentire (udito), signora (francese), signore (francese), soldi, spazzola, stanco (a), stanza, stesso, tagliare, tazza, testa, testamento (x2), trovare, uccidere, vino, vivere, zia, zio

2. Simple summary of the story

The story begins with a gentleman called Dupin in his house with a friend. He reads a terrible story in the newspaper. A violent killer murdered an old woman and her daughter. The old woman was decapitated and her body was thrown out of the house. The daughter was strangled and her body was found inside the chimney of their apartment.

The police have no idea how the killer escaped, because the women's apartment was locked from the inside. Dupin and his friend - the narrator of the story - decide to help the police. Dupin studies the crime scene. His brilliant interpretation identifies that the murderer was an escaped orangutan. Of course, the police are not happy that Dupin solved the case first!

This is the real story: the orangutan came with a sailor to Paris from Borneo, an island in Indonesia. The orangutan lived in the sailor's house and every day he saw the sailor shaving. One night, the orangutan escaped with the sailor's razor and ran through the streets of Paris.

When the animal saw a light in a window, he climbed into the house, which was the old woman's apartment. He wanted to shave her with the razor but she resisted. He became violent and decapitated her. The orangutan then threw her body out of the window and he strangled the daughter. When the sailor arrived at the window, the orangutan decided to hide the daughter's body in the chimney.

3. Simple summary of the story in Italian

La storia apre con un uomo di nome Dupin che è a casa sua con un amico. Dupin legge una storia terribile sul giornale. Un violento assassino ha ucciso una donna anziana e sua figlia. La vecchia fu decapitata e il suo corpo fu gettato fuori di casa. La figlia è stata strangolata e il suo corpo è stato trovato all'interno del camino del loro appartamento.

La polizia non ha idea di come sia scappato l'assassino, perché l'appartamento delle donne era chiuso a chiave dall'interno. Dupin e il suo amico - il narratore della storia - decidono di aiutare la polizia. Dupin studia la scena del crimine. La sua brillante interpretazione degli indizi identifica l'assassino - un orangutan fuggito. Certo, la polizia non è contenta che Dupin abbia risolto il caso prima di loro.

Questa è la vera storia: l'orangutan arrivò con un marinaio a Parigi dal Borneo, un'isola in Indonesia. L'orangutan viveva nella casa del marinaio e ogni giorno osservava la rasatura del marinaio. Una sera, l'orangutan fuggì con il rasoio del marinaio e corse per le strade di Parigi.

Quando l'animale vide una luce in una finestra, entrò nella casa, che era l'appartamento della vecchia. Voleva raderla con il rasoio ma lei resistette. L'orangutan è diventato violento e l'ha quasi decapitata. L'orangutan quindi gettò il suo corpo fuori dalla finestra e strangolò la figlia. Quando il marinaio arrivò alla finestra, l'orangutan decise di nascondere il corpo della figlia nel camino.

4. Advanced summary of the story

"The Murders in the Rue Morgue" is a murder-mystery short story by Edgar Allen Poe, published in *Graham's Magazine* in 1841. It was described by critics as the first modern detective story.

The narrator of the story opens with a commentary on the nature and practice of analytical reasoning, then describes how he first met Dupin during a visit to Paris. The two share rooms in an old mansion and receive no visitors. They have cut off all contact with friends and only go out at night. One evening, Dupin demonstrates his analytical talent by deducing the narrator's thoughts about a particular stage actor, based on clues gathered from the narrator's previous words and actions.

During the remainder of that evening and the following morning, Dupin and the narrator read with great interest the newspaper accounts of a mysterious double murder. Madame L'Espanaye and her daughter have been found dead at their home in the Rue Morgue, a fictional street in Paris. The mother was found in a courtyard behind the house, with multiple broken bones and her throat so deeply cut that her head fell off when the body was moved. The daughter was found strangled to death and stuffed upside down into a chimney. The murders occurred in a fourth-floor room that was locked from the inside; on the floor were found a bloody straight razor, several bloody tufts of gray hair, and two bags of gold coins. Several witnesses reported hearing two voices at the time of the murder, one male and French, but disagreed on the language spoken by the other. The speech was unclear, and all witnesses claimed not to know the language they believed the second voice to be speaking.

When a bank clerk named Adolphe Le Bon is arrested even though no evidence exists pointing to his guilt (other than his delivering the gold coins to the two ladies the day before), Dupin is intrigued and remembers a service that Le Bon once performed for him. He decides to offer his assistance to the prefect of police.

Because none of the witnesses can agree on the language the murderer spoke, Dupin concludes they were not hearing a human voice at all. He and the narrator examine the house thoroughly; the following day, Dupin states that Le Bon is innocent and believes there was no robbery as the gold was not taken from the room. He also points out that the murderer would have had to have superhuman strength to force the daughter's body up the chimney. He formulates a method by which the murderer could have entered the room and killed both women, involving an agile climb up a lightning rod and a jump to a set of open window shutters. Dupin then shows a strange tuft of hair he found at from the scene of the crime and shows the impossibility of the daughter being strangled by a human hand. Dupin concludes that it was an orangutan that killed the women.

He places an advertisement in the local newspaper asking if anyone has lost such an animal, and soon a sailor arrives looking for it.

The sailor offers to pay a reward, but Dupin is interested only in learning the circumstances behind the two murders. The sailor explains that he captured the orangutan while in Borneo and brought it back to Paris, but had trouble keeping it under control. When he saw the orangutan attempting to shave its face with his straight razor, imitating the sailor’s morning shave, it escaped into the streets and reached the Rue Morgue, where it climbed up and into the house. The orangutan seized the mother by the hair and was waving the razor, imitating a barber; when she screamed in fear, it flew into a rage,

ripped her hair out and slashed her throat and then strangled the daughter. The sailor climbed up the lightning rod in an attempt to catch the animal, and the two voices heard by witnesses belonged to it and to him. Fearing punishment by its master, the orangutan threw the mother's body out of the window and stuffed the daughter into the chimney before fleeing.

The sailor sells the orangutan, Le Bon is released from custody, and when Dupin tells him the story, the police prefect mentions that people should mind their own business. Dupin comments to the narrator that the prefect is "somewhat too cunning to be profound", but admires his ability “to deny that which is, and explain that which is not".

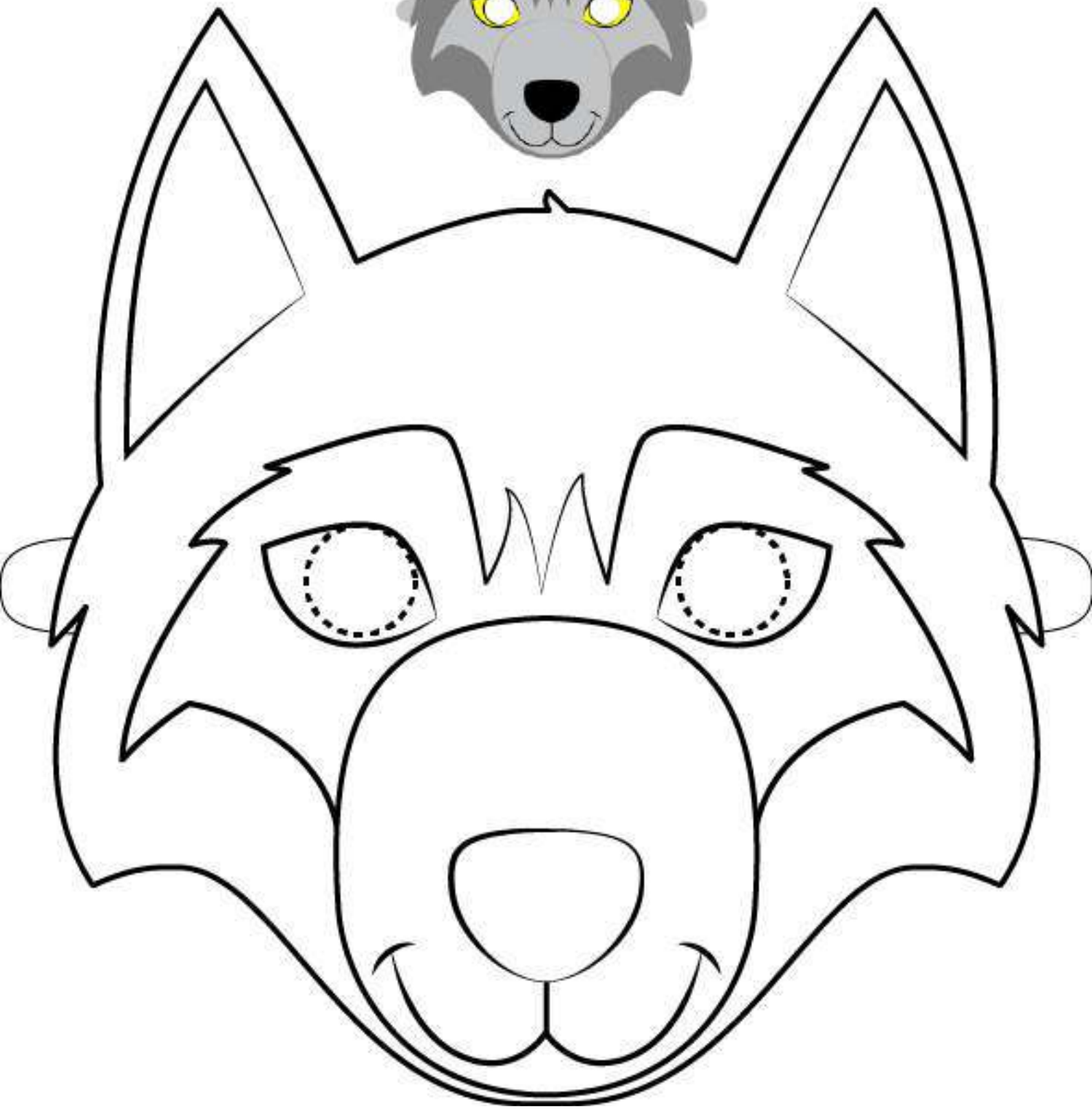
5. Word Grid

Can you find these characters from our story? “Paris” is shown for you. There are also 3 simple words in French.

Aunt / Nephew / Madame Camille / Auguste Dupin / Gaston / Jaques Oignon / Doctor Flow / Bonjour / Au revoir / Paris

T	G	R	A	F	A	T	E	I	O	C	M
C	A	M	I	L	L	E	R	A	N	H	A
R	U	A	O	O	I	T	R	M	I	S	U
A	R	M	I	W	Y	T	G	A	S	A	G
L	E	H	Y	E	U	I	S	D	S	O	U
W	V	T	F	N	X	T	P	A	R	I	S
B	O	N	J	O	U	R	E	M	E	G	T
A	I	B	A	R	G	S	O	E	U	N	E
T	R	N	C	L	U	G	A	S	T	O	N
H	G	A	Q	T	J	T	I	E	E	N	E
M	K	E	U	D	U	P	I	N	H	E	X
H	S	A	E	I	Z	H	P	E	M	R	T
C	E	W	S	C	C	D	O	C	T	O	R

6. Wolf mask - 01



6. Wolf mask - 02

7. An introduction to werewolves

The werewolf legend is one of the oldest fantasies about human monsters in history.
Werewolves (or "lycanthropes") are humans transformed into wolf-form, becoming half man and half beast. They possess unusual speed, strength, reflexes and supernatural senses.
The werewolf is popular in books, comics, cartoons, films and television, from the horror classic movies *The Wolf Man* and *Cat People*, to the TV series *Twilight* and *Underworld*.
Although the legend of the werewolf has a long and rich history, they are less popular than vampires and zombies.

Fill in the missing spaces

They possess unusual speed, strength, reflexes and _____ senses.

Werewolves (or "lycanthropes"), are humans _____ into wolf-form.

The werewolf _____ is now popular all over the _____ .

The werewolf legend is one of the oldest _____ about human monsters in history.

Question:

Why do you think werewolves are less popular than vampires and zombies?

Because:

Jumbled words

Can you re-order these mixed-up words?
They are all related to werewolves... ie #7 is FULL MOON

1) GORNST
2) SEFCUIROO
3) MITCIV
4) LLUF NOMO
5) LOWEWERF
6) TANREUSALPU
7) PADITETACE

8. Song: the big bad wolf

Who's afraid of the big bad wolf
The big bad wolf, the big bad wolf
Who's afraid of the big bad wolf
Tra la la la la

Long ago there were three pigs
Little handsome piggy wigs
For the big, bad the very big, very bad wolf
They did not give three figs

Number one was very gay
And he built his house with hay
With a hey hey toot he blew on his flute
And he played around all day

Now number two was fond of jigs
And so he built his house with twigs
Hey, diddle diddle he played on his fiddle
And danced with lady pigs

Number three said, "Nix on tricks
I shall build my house with bricks"
He had no chance to sing or dance
'Cause work and play don't mix

Ha, ha, ha, the two little do little pigs
Just winked and laughed ah, woo

Who's afraid of the big bad wolf
The big bad wolf, the big bad wolf
Who's afraid of the big bad wolf
Tra la la la la

Came the day when fate did frown
And a wolf blew into town
With a gruff huff puff, he puffed just enough
And the hay house fell right down

One and two were scared to death
Of the big bad wolf's breath
By the hair of your chinny chin I'll blow you in
And the twig house answered yes

No one left but number three
To save that piglet family
So when they knocked, he fast unlocked
And said come in with me

Now they all were safe inside
But the bricks hurt wolf's pride
So, he slid down the chimney and oh, by Jiminey
In a fire he was fried

Oh, oh, oh, the three little free little pigs
Just winked and laughed, ah, woo

Who's afraid of the big bad wolf
The big bad wolf, the big bad wolf
Who's afraid of the big bad wolf
Tra la la la la

Tra la la, tra la la
Tra la la la la la la la la la la
Who's afraid of the big, big, big

9. What is a werewolf?

Some examples:
very strong, reacts to the full moon, eats animals, hairy (peloso), strange eyes, walks unusually, supernatural powers, runs very fast, can see in the dark

For me, a werewolf is...

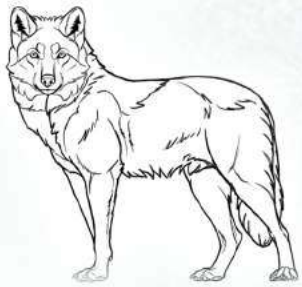
My name: _____

10. Popular expressions with the word “wolf”

Re-order the definitions with the expression.

Can you think of more?

Wolf expressions in English



These expressions are very common in English. The definitions are not in order. One example is given. Can you find the others?

EXPRESSION	DEFINITION
a) To cry wolf	To fight against something bad
b) To keep the wolf from the door	A person who prefers to be alone
c) To throw (*someone*) to the wolves	To find your true nature
d) A lone wolf	Eating very quickly
e) To keep the wolves at bay	Surviving in times of difficulty
f) Wolf in sheeps clothing	To raise a false alarm
g) To wolf down	To put somebody in difficulty
h) Discover your inner wolf	False appearances

Use the expression in the following phrases.

1) Civil rights groups are working hard to _____.
2) The manager _____his young workers to _____in order to save his job.
3) I have never seen him with other people. He has always been _____.
4) When Sally became a pilot, she_____.
After football every day, John is so hungry he _____three hamburgers!
5) I'm sure there's no real crisis, Janet is always _____so we'll do her work for her
6) She works three jobs in a day; but she still can't_____.
7) Don't trust the salesman, he is a _____.
8) Just because our team lost ten games consecutively, there's no need _____ !

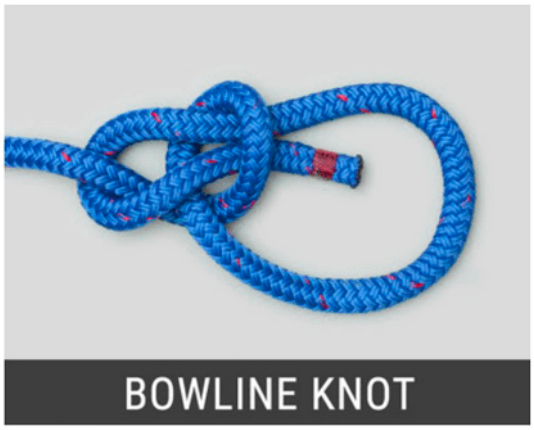
11. Knots

There are many types of knots! Each one can be incredibly useful in a special context. Do you know the names of these in Italian?
One of these knots is a crucial clue (indizio) in Hotel Morgue. Can you imagine which one?
Which is your favourite? Click on the links on the pictures or visit www.animated-knots.com

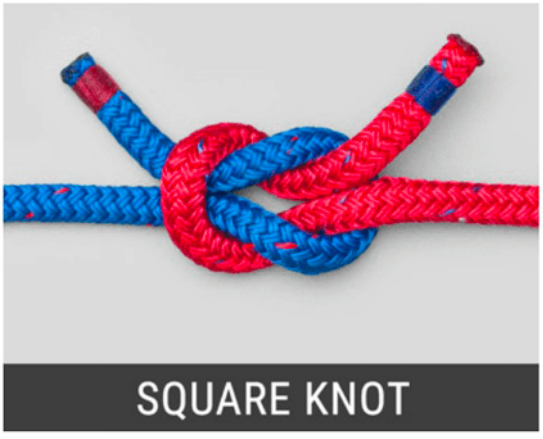
FIGURE 8 KNOT

CHAIN SINNET

CELTIC KNOT

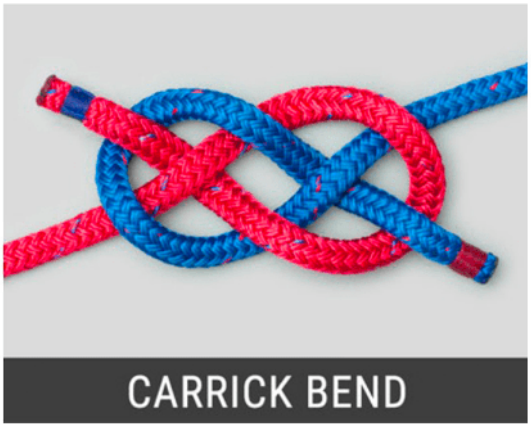


BOWLINE KNOT



SQUARE KNOT

ALPINE BUTTERFLY LOOP



CARRICK BEND

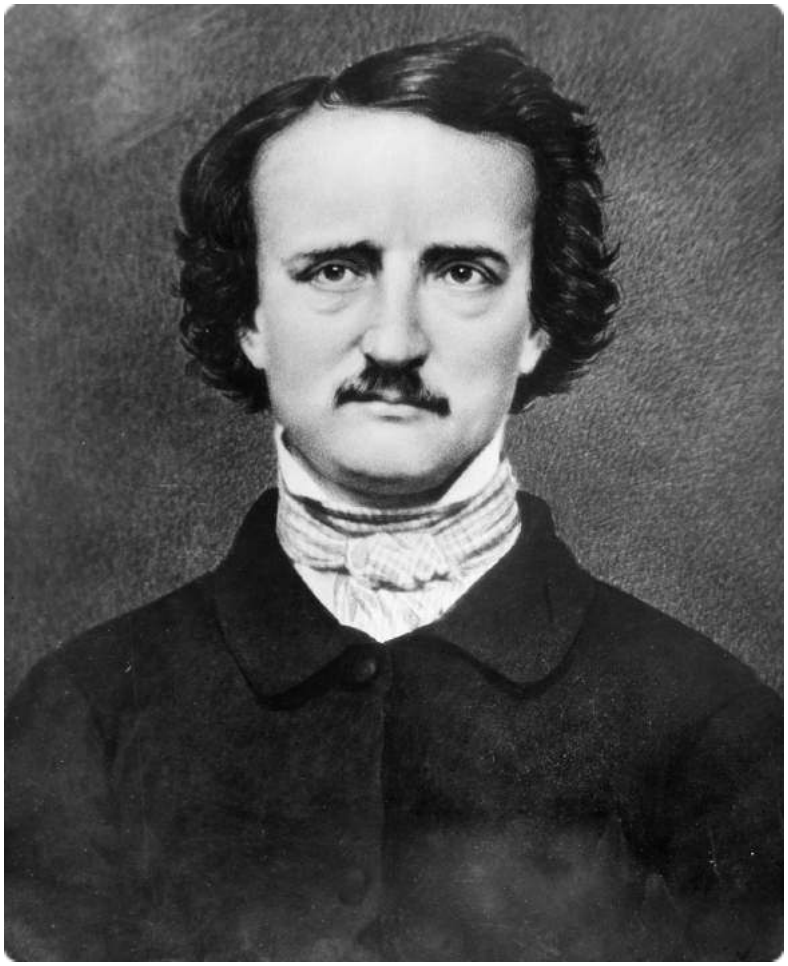
SINGLE ROPE BRAID

12. Crime scene exercise

In this exercise, you have the chance to be a detective or the witness (testimone) to a crime.

Your teacher will explain more.

13. The Life of Edgar Allan Poe



Fill in the gaps using the following words:

studied, died, popular, mystery, writer, earn, winner, academy, cities, short stories, death, named, detective

Edgar Allan Poe (1809 – 1849) was an American a) _____ editor and literary critic. Poe is best known for his poetry and short stories, particularly his tales of b) _____ and the macabre. He is widely regarded as a central figure of Romanticism and of American literature as a whole, and he was one of the country's earliest writers of c) _____. He is generally considered the inventor of the d) _____ fiction genre and also contributed to the new genre of science fiction. He was the first well-known American writer to e) _____ a living through writing alone, although this resulted in a financially difficult life and career.

Poe was born in Boston, to parents who were actors. In fact, Edgar may have been f) _____ after a character in William Shakespeare's *King Lear* which his parents were performing in 1809.

His father abandoned the family in 1810, and his mother died the following year. Subsequently, Edgar was fostered by the Allan family in Richmond, Virginia.

He g) _____ at the University of Virginia but left after a year for lack of money.

He began his publishing career using the anonymous name "A Bostonian", with a collection, called "*Tamerlane and Other Poems*" (1827).

Poe then entered as an officer cadet at West Point, the famous American military h) _____ but the experience was a failure. In reality, Poe wanted to be a poet and writer.

He concentrated on writing and worked for literary newspapers and magazines, becoming known for his literary criticism. He moved among several i) _____, including Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York City. He married his 13-year-old cousin Virginia in 1836. In January 1845, Poe published his poem "The Raven" and it was an instant success, but unfortunately his wife Virginia j) _____ of tuberculosis two years after its publication.

Poe died in Baltimore in 1849, at the age of 40; the cause of his k) _____ is unknown and has been attributed to alcohol, "brain

congestion", cholera, drugs, heart disease, rabies, suicide, tuberculosis, and other causes.

Edgar Allan Poe and his works influenced crime literature around the world, as well as other fields like cosmology and cryptography. His work appears throughout l) _____ culture in literature, music, films, and television.

The Mystery Writers of America present an annual award known as the Edgar Award (*click the link for more information*) for distinguished work in the mystery genre. The 2019 m) _____ was Walter Mosley with Down the River Unto the Sea.

14. Online comic version of the story

Click on the link to see a fantastic adaptation of *The Murders of Rue Morgue*. Enjoy it at home too!

http://vlcomic.com/read/comic-edgar-allan-poe-s-morella-and-the-murders-in-the-rue-morgue-eng/1

After reading it, discuss with friends or in class what you enjoyed or didn't like about the version!