



# Writer's Effect Assessment

*The Tell-Tale Heart, E.A. Poe*

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English

## Read the following extract.

True! — nervous — very, very dreadfully nervous I had been and am; but why will you say that I am mad? The disease had sharpened my senses — not destroyed — not dulled them. Above all was the sense of hearing acute. I heard all things in the heaven and in the earth. I heard many things in hell. How, then, am I mad? Hearken! and observe how healthily — how calmly I can tell you the whole story.

It is impossible to say how first the idea entered my brain; but once conceived, it haunted me day and night. Object there was none. Passion there was none. I loved the old man. He had never wronged me. He had never given me insult. For his gold I had no desire. I think it was his eye! yes, it was this! One of his eyes resembled that of a vulture — a pale blue eye, with a film over it. Whenever it fell upon me, my blood ran cold; and so by degrees — very gradually — I made up my mind to take the life of the old man, and thus rid myself of the eye forever.

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### 1. Explain how the writer uses language to convey meaning and to create effect in this extract.

Choose **three examples of words or phrases** from each paragraph of the extract to support your answer.

Your choices should include the use of **imagery, tone, or structure**.

Write about **200–300 words**.

**Up to 15 marks are available for the content of your answer.**

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## Vocabulary Support

### Basic

scared

creepy

crazy

repeating

tense

### Advanced

psychologically unstable

unsettling / disturbing

unreliable narrator

obsessive repetition

mounting psychological tension

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## 3. Scaffold

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### Paragraph 1 – Overview

Sentence starters:

- The writer establishes a tone of \_\_\_ through specific word choices that suggest...
- The language in the passage conveys \_\_\_ while implying...
- The writer presents \_\_\_ through carefully controlled language, revealing...

Must include:

- **tone**
  - **underlying meaning**
  - **reader effect**
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### Paragraph 2 – Paragraph 1 Language

#### REQUIREMENT:

Choose **3 words/phrases** from paragraph 1

**Focus on:**

- imagery
- tone
- exaggeration / repetition

**Sentence starters:**

- The phrase “\_\_\_” suggests...
  - This creates the effect of...
  - The word “\_\_\_” implies...
  - This makes the reader feel...
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## Paragraph 3 – Paragraph 2 Language

### ● REQUIREMENT:

Choose 3 words/phrases from paragraph 2

#### Focus on:

- contrast
- character voice
- emotional tone

#### Sentence starters:

- The writer uses “\_\_\_” to show...
  - This is effective because...
  - The language creates...
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## Paragraph 4 – Paragraph 3 Language

### ● REQUIREMENT:

Choose 3 words/phrases from paragraph 3

#### Focus on:

- structure (short sentences, repetition, punctuation)
- sensory imagery
- tension building

#### Sentence starters:

- The repetition of “\_\_\_” shows...
  - The structure of “\_\_\_” creates...
  - This builds tension because...
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## Paragraph 5 – Overall Effect

### Sentence starters:

- Overall, the writer's use of language...
- This creates a sense of...
- The reader is left feeling...

## Key Reminder

### ✘ DO NOT:

- retell the story

### ✔ DO:

- explain **HOW Poe creates tension**
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