

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

## Annabel Lee

By Edgar Allan Poe  
1849

*Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849) was an American author, poet, and literary critic whose works are still widely read today. His poem, "Annabel Lee" was published in 1849 and is the last complete poem published by Poe before his death. It remains a mystery who—if anyone—was the inspiration for this poem. As you read, take notes on how Poe characterizes the love between the narrator and Annabel Lee.*

- [1] It was many and many a year ago  
In a kingdom by the sea  
That a maiden there lived whom you may know  
By the name of Annabel Lee;
- [5] And this maiden she lived with no other thought  
Than to love and be loved by me.
- I was a child and she was a child  
In this kingdom by the sea;  
But we loved with a love that was more than love  
—
- [10] I and my Annabel Lee;  
With a love that the winged seraphs<sup>1</sup> of heaven  
Coveted<sup>2</sup> her and me.
- And this was the reason that long ago  
In this kingdom by the sea
- [15] A wind blew out of a cloud chilling  
My beautiful Annabel Lee;  
So that her highborn kinsman came  
And bore her away from me  
To shut her up in a sepulchre<sup>3</sup>
- [20] In this kingdom by the sea.
- The angels not half so happy in heaven  
Went envying her and me —  
Yes! — that was the reason (as all men know  
In this kingdom by the sea)
- [25] That the wind came out of the cloud by night  
Chilling and killing my Annabel Lee.



*"Sometimes, Lonely is Appropriate" by Aikawa Ke is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0.*

1. another term for angels  
2. **Covet** (*verb*): to desire or want to possess something  
3. a burial vault, tomb, or grave

But our love it was stronger by far than the love  
Of those who were older than we —  
Of many far wiser than we —

[30] And neither the angels in heaven above  
Nor the demons down under the sea  
Can ever dissever<sup>4</sup> my soul from the soul  
Of the beautiful Annabel Lee.

For the moon never beams without bringing me dreams

[35] Of the beautiful Annabel Lee;  
And the stars never rise but I feel the bright eyes  
Of the beautiful Annabel Lee;  
And so all the night-tide I lie down by the side  
Of my darling — my darling — my life and my bride

[40] In the sepulchre there by the sea  
In her tomb by the sounding sea.

*"Annabel Lee" by Edgar Allan Poe (1849) is in the public domain.*

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4. to separate or divide

## Text-Dependent Questions

**Directions:** For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: Which of the following best describes a central theme of the text? [RL.2]
  - A. Love can sometimes be so strong that it cannot be stopped by death.
  - B. Jealousy and envy can corrupt people's intentions.
  - C. Youth, especially young emotion, leaves a strong imprint on our memories.
  - D. Sometimes bad things happen to good people.
  
2. PART B: Which of the following quotes best supports the answer to Part A? [RL.1]
  - A. "I was a child and she was a child / In this kingdom by the sea; / But we loved with a love that was more than love— / I and my Annabel Lee" (Lines 6-10)
  - B. "So that her highborn kinsman came / And bore her away from me / To shut her up in a sepulcher / In this kingdom by the sea." (Lines 17-20)
  - C. "The angels not half so happy in heaven / Went envying her and me— / Yes!—that was the reason (as all men know / In this kingdom by the sea)" (Lines 21-24)
  - D. "And neither the angels in heaven above / Nor the demons down under the sea / Can ever dissever my soul from the soul / Of the beautiful Annabel Lee." (Lines 30-33)
  
3. Which of the following statements best summarizes how the speaker describes Annabel Lee? [RL.6]
  - A. The speaker describes her as coming from a wealthier family, which is why she is taken from him.
  - B. The speaker describes her as fragile and dainty, which is why she becomes sick so easily.
  - C. The speaker idealizes her, describing her as beautiful and seemingly having no other purpose than to love him.
  - D. The speaker idealizes her and describes her as perfect, but he also holds a lot of resentment for the way she treated him.
  
4. PART A: What effect does the personification of nature have on this poem? [RL.4]
  - A. It proves that the speaker is unbalanced, and that he is suffering from paranoia and delusions.
  - B. It specifically gives the speaker and the audience hope that there is an afterlife.
  - C. It supports the speaker's claims that Annabel Lee was purposefully taken from him due to jealousy from the heavens.
  - D. It makes nature seem invested in humanity, as opposed to being indifferent and random, which the speaker fears more than anything.

5. PART B: Which of the following quotes best embodies an example of the answer to Part A? [RL.1]
- A. "It was many and many a year ago / In a kingdom by the sea" (Lines 1-2)
  - B. "Yes!—that was the reason (as all men know / In this kingdom by the sea) / That the wind came out of the cloud by night / Chilling and killing my Annabel Lee." (Lines 23-26)
  - C. "And neither the angels in heaven above / Nor the demons down under the sea" (Lines 30-31)
  - D. "For the moon never beams without bringing me dreams / Of the beautiful Annabel Lee; / And the stars never rise but I feel the bright eyes / Of the beautiful Annabel Lee" (Lines 34-37)
6. What does the rhyme scheme reveal about the speaker? [RL.6] [RL.5]
- A. The rhyme scheme, as it is very basic and inconsistent, reveals little about the speaker but does suggest he may be an unreliable narrator.
  - B. The end rhyme scheme is simple and mostly involves words rhyming with Annabel "Lee"; this suggests the speaker is trying to recreate a childish rhyme, to draw attention to his youth.
  - C. The end rhyme scheme is simple and mostly involves words rhyming with Annabel "Lee"; this suggests that the speaker is still very focused on his relationship with Annabel, and she is never far from his mind.\*
  - D. The rhyme scheme mostly relies on internal rhyme (for example, "Chilling and killing" in Line 26); this suggests that the speaker has been bottling up his grief since his childhood and he can barely speak of his pain.

