

# Rhetorical Devices in “The Raven”

Florida B.E.S.T. Standards | Literary Analysis Worksheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Text: The Raven by Edgar Allan Poe

Learning Target: I can identify rhetorical devices in a literary text and analyze how an author's language choices contribute to meaning, tone, and effect.

## Directions

As you read The Raven, locate an example of each rhetorical device listed in the chart. Record the line number or stanza, copy the relevant text, and explain how the device contributes to the poem's meaning, tone, or effect.

You must use evidence directly from the poem. Some devices may be more challenging to locate than others.

## Rhetorical Devices Analysis Chart

| Rhetorical Device | Description                                                                                       | Example from “The Raven” | Line/Stanza # | Effect on Meaning, Tone, or Reader |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|
| Irony             | A contrast between expectation and reality, or between what is stated and what is actually meant. |                          |               |                                    |
| Antithesis        | The placement of contrasting or opposing ideas in a balanced structure.                           |                          |               |                                    |

|                     |                                                                                                    |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Asyndeton           | The intentional omission of conjunctions between words, phrases, or clauses in a series.           |
| Chiasmus            | The reversal of words, grammatical structures, or concepts in a parallel arrangement.              |
| Metonymy            | Referring to something by using the name of a closely associated object, concept, or institution.  |
| Rhetorical Question | A question asked to emphasize an idea or encourage reflection rather than receive a direct answer. |
| Synecdoche          | Using a part to represent a whole or a whole to represent a part.                                  |
| Zeugma              | Using one word, often a verb, to connect two or more elements in different ways.                   |

## Written Analysis

After completing the chart, answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. Which rhetorical device contributes most to the dark, melancholic tone of the poem? Explain your reasoning using textual evidence.
2. How does Poe's use of rhetorical questions reveal the speaker's emotional state?

3. How do Poe's rhetorical choices contribute to the reader's understanding of the speaker's grief and emotional struggle?

4. Which rhetorical device was the most difficult to locate? Explain why you think Poe's use of this device is subtle or challenging to identify.