

Name: _____ Date: _____

6B- _____ Reading: "The Tell-Tale Heart" — Guided Reading Questions

Directions: USE PENCIL. Your answers to the following questions should fill the lines provided. Echo the question in your answer and write complete sentences.

1. Answer each of the following parts of this question below:

A. From which point-of-view is the story told, 1st, 2nd, or 3rd-person? (Circle one.)

B. From whose perspective? Describe the narrator.

C. What does the narrator claim is his or her purpose for telling this story?

In your opinion, does the narrator achieve this goal? Why or why not?

2. Who else might have told the story of these events? How might this other point-of-view changed the telling of this story? Explain your answer using specific details from the story. _____

(over)

3. Most readers will find the narrator of this story unusual, if not extreme.

Nonetheless, one might argue that in a sense we are all — even if only in a very basic sense — like this narrator. But how so? Explain your answer using details from the story. _____

4. Why do you think Poe chose the old man's eye as the obsession of the narrator? What might the eye stand for, represent, or *symbolize*? Explain your answer using specific details from the story, focusing on how the characteristics of an eye create the symbolic meaning. _____

5. Does Poe use a *traditional* or *untraditional* plot structure for this story? Explain your answer using specific details from the story. _____

(next)

6. What is the main conflict in this story (character vs. _____)? Explain your answer using specific details from the story. _____

7. How might the characters and the setting of this story be a version of the narrator, himself? Explain your answer for each using specific details from the story:

A. The old man: _____

B. The police officers: _____

C. The house / setting: _____

8. Where do you think the narrator might be as he tells us this story? Why do you think so? Explain your answer using specific details from the story. _____

(over)

9. Discuss the title “The Tell-Tale Heart” using specific details from the story.

A. What “tale” does a heart — or do hearts, plural — tell in this story? Use specific details from the text in your answer.

B. The narrator refers to another “ticker” of sorts, a clock. Poe is known to plan his stories in great detail. So why might he have chosen to include both hearts and clocks in this story? In what way might these two objects be alike? Explain your answer using specific details from the story.

