

**The Oval Portrait – Poe**  
**Art – Melville**

Name\_\_\_\_\_

1. Read “The Oval Portrait,” by Edgar Allan Poe. List three ways Poe’s story reflects the literary time period “Romanticism.” Be sure to include specific examples from the text for support.
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
2. Is the artist’s obsession with painting his wife/his masterpiece an act of love or an act of selfishness? Please defend your answer.
3. What does the “Oval Portrait” say about the connection between art and life?
4. In “The Oval Portrait,” how does the inside story “inform” the outside story? Be specific!
5. In “The Oval Portrait,” how does the outside story “inform” the inside story? Again, be specific!

6. Please read Herman Melville's poem, "Art." Write "Art" in your own words. Should take you about four sentences.

### **Art**

**Herman Melville (1891)**

In placid hours well-pleased we dream  
Of many a brave unbodied scheme.  
But form to lend, pulsed life create,  
What unlike things must meet and mate:  
A flame to melt--a wind to freeze;  
Sad patience--joyous energies;  
Humility--yet pride and scorn;  
Instinct and study; love and hate;  
Audacity--reverence. These must mate,  
And fuse with Jacob's mystic heart,  
To wrestle with the angel--Art.

7. In your own words, in "Art" what are three things that happen when art happens? (3 pts.)
- a.
  - b.
  - c.
8. How is Herman Melville's attitude toward "Art" similar to Poe's attitude in "The Oval Portrait"? Again, please use specific examples from each work to show/prove your point.