

Week 3 Finding the American voice: The American literary imagination expanding: E. A. Poe: “The Fall of the House of Usher” or “The Murders in the Rue Morgue”,

The Fall of the House of Usher

Reading Check:

1. *What emotion does the narrator feel when he first sees the House of Usher?*
2. *What trouble has Roderick Usher described in his letter to the narrator?*
3. *Whom does the narrator meet while being led to Usher’s studio?*
4. *What are the symptoms of the lady Madeline’s illness?*
5. *How does her condition change on the night the narrator arrives?*
6. *What strange theory does RU have about the Usher mansion?*
7. *Where is the vault in which the lady Madeline’s body is placed?*
8. *How does the narrator attempt to calm Usher during the storm?*
9. *What does Usher say he has done to his sister?*
10. *What happens to the House of Usher?*

The Murders in the Rue Morgue

Reading Check

1. *Describe the house where Dupin and the narrator were dwelling in Paris. What was it like?*
2. *What is the atmosphere like, how do you feel when reading the introduction? What makes you feel that way?*
3. *What is the first sign of Dupin’s extraordinary intellect?*
4. *What was strange about the victims of the murder?*
5. *What is Dupin’s opinion of the police?*
6. *How did the two (Dupin and the narrator) find out who the culprit was?*
7. *List some of the Gothic elements in the story.*

W. Whitman: “The Song of Myself” (1, 2, 5, 6, 15) In Lehel Vadon’s *An American Poetry Anthology*, pp.260-262., 265-268., 273-274.

Questions:

- a. *What does the ‘I’ stand for in Section 1?*
- b. *How does he feel and what is his choice of words for that in Section 2?*
- c. *In Verse 5 Whitman introduces a new topic into poetry that provokes dissent and disapproval of the society of his age. What is it?*
- d. *How does he interpret the notion of death in Section 6?*
- e. *What is described in Section 15? How do the images correspond to his view of the universal self*