Edgar Allan Poe

Inquiry Unit Assessment

Through our exploration of Poe’s life, selected short stories and poems you have gained an understanding of Poe’s life and possible influence on his writings.

We were guided through several “big” questions and an enduring understanding of our inquiry unit.

**Enduring Understanding:** Edgar Allan Poe, the father of the modern detective story, has impacted all writing and even film, since his death.

“Big” Questions:

* How did Poe really die?
* Was Poe really insane?
* What role/influence did Poe’s life play in his writing?
* Why was Poe seemingly obsessed with the insane, death, disease, and disaster in his stories and poem?

We have been able to seek the answer to the first question, and we have touched on the other three only a little bit in just exploring his writing and researching his life, but now you need to put the three questions together.

Your job is to use all the notes, stories and poem, handouts, timeline, and anything else we have done or I have given you on Poe to determine the answer to the last three questions.

You need to write a synthesis paper, answering those questions using any information you have discovered, quotes from stories/poesm, facts about Poe’s life to.

Your paper should be formatted as follows:

**Introduction:**

Give some general background who Poe is (I don’t need his whole life story), what he did and the type of life he lived (be general). **Thesis statement:** *Edgar Allan Poe wouldn’t have written the stories and poems he did if he didn’t live the tormented life he lived.*

**Question 1:** *Was Poe really insane?*

Use the knowledge and data you have about Poe’s life from your timeline and even some of the incidents he wrote about to prove your answer to this question. Be sure to include quotes, that are properly cited in this paragraph, MLA format. Be sure you back up those quotes with your analysis/explanation how that proves he was or wasn’t insane.

**Question 2:** *What role/influence did Poe’s life play in his writings?*

Use the information from his life and any connections you can make with his writing to answer this question. Be sure to include quotes that are properly cited in this paragraph, MLA format. Be sure you back up those quotes with your analysis/explanation how you are proving that is was or wasn’t an influence.

**Question 3:** *Why was Poe seemingly obsessed with the insane, death, disease, and disaster in his stories and poem?*

This is where you will really want to evaluate the stories and poems we have read. Look at the characters he has created. You will definitely want to include quotes from stories and poems to back up your claims. Remember to properly cite them, MLA format.

**Conclusion:**

Bring your last paragraph back to your thesis and further back up how everything you wrote about in your body paragraphs proves your thesis.