

Name: _____ Date: _____

Literary Elements and Devices

Identifying the basic elements of a literary work can help you understand it better.

Use this activity to help you understand *The Tell-Tale Heart*.

See *Scope's* "Glossary of Literary Terms" for definitions of the words that appear in bold.

Section 1: Characters

1. For the characters of the Villain, the Old Man, and one other character of your choice: (1) decide whether the character is **major** or **minor**; (2) briefly describe the character, including his or her appearance, personality, and background; and (3) decide whether the character is **static** or **dynamic** and explain why.

A. is a **major** **minor** (check one) character.

Description: _____

He is a **static** **dynamic** (check one) character. I think so because

B. is a **major** **minor** (check one) character.

Description: _____

He is a **static** **dynamic** (check one) character. I think so because

C. is a **major** **minor** (check one) character.

Description: _____

He is a **static** **dynamic** (check one) character. I think so because

2. Describe the role of the ravens in the play. Support your answer with details from the text.

Section 2: Figurative Language

3. A **metaphor** compares two unlike things to illuminate a particular quality or aspect of one of those things. In Scene 2, the Villain uses a metaphor to describe the Old Man. Find the metaphor and explain what it means.

4. **Onomatopoeia** refers to the use of words that sound like the thing they are describing, or to those words themselves. *Hiss*, *growl*, and *honk* are examples of onomatopoeia. Choose one example of onomatopoeia in the play and explain what it adds to the story.

Section 3: Plot and Structure

5. *Mundane* means unimportant, dull, or boring. What makes the **dialogue** between the Officer, Sergeant, and Constable in Scene 4 mundane? What purpose does their dialogue serve in the play?

6. A. What is the main **conflict** the **protagonist** faces?

B. Is this conflict **internal** or **external**? _____

C. Another way to describe this **conflict** is: person vs. _____ .

Choices
self person nature society
technology the supernatural

7. How is the main conflict resolved?

Section 4: Suspense

8. Choose a scene from the play and provide at least two examples of how the author creates suspense in that scene. Your examples can be lines, words, or plot points.
