

ELA: Grade 7, Lesson 1, *Annabel Lee*

**Lesson Focus:** Basic understanding of the poem

**Practice Focus:** Read and understand the meaning of “Annabel Lee”

**Objective:** Students will use “Annabel Lee”, and specifically Poe’s love for his wife, to focus on understanding the structure of this poem and how to write their own.

**Academic Vocabulary:** Coveted, tomb, maiden

**TN Standards:** 7.RL.KID.1, 7.RL.KID.2, 7.RL.CS.4, 7.RL.CS.5

**Teacher Materials:**

- Copy of “Annabel Lee” (at end of lesson plan)

**Student Materials:**

- Paper
- Pencil
- Hard Surface to write on

Teacher Do	Students Do
<p><b>Opening</b> (1 min)</p> <p><b>Hello! Welcome to Tennessee’s At Home Learning Series for literacy! Today’s lesson is for all our 7<sup>th</sup> graders out there, though everyone is welcome to tune in. This lesson is the first in this series.</b></p> <p><b>My name is ____ and I’m a ____ grade teacher in Tennessee schools. I’m so excited to be your teacher for this lesson! Welcome to my virtual classroom!</b></p> <p><b>If you didn’t see our previous lessons, you can find them at <a href="http://www.tn.gov/education">www.tn.gov/education</a>. You can still tune in to today’s lesson if you haven’t seen any of our others.</b></p> <p><b>Today we will be learning about love! Before we get started, to participate fully in our lesson today, you will need:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Some paper, a pencil, and a hard surface to write on.</li></ul> <p><b>Ok, let’s begin!</b></p>	<p>Students gather materials for the lesson and prepare to engage with the lesson’s content.</p>
<p><b>Intro</b> (1 minute)</p> <p><b>Well, Spring is in the air right? Do you know what usually blooms in Spring? Flowers, yes, but I’m looking for something else. Leaves, maybe, but not what I’m looking for. How about if I ask it this way. What emotion do we usually think of in the Springtime? I’ll give you a hint. It happens in February and there is usually candy involved. Yes, love! Today our goal is to read a poem by Edgar Allen Poe and begin to understand what it’s about. We will begin with me reading the poem, and then there will be time for us to reread it and deepen our understanding of the poem. We</b></p>	<p>Students listen to preview of the lesson.</p>

<p>will work together on that. Finally, I will assign you independent work that you can complete after the video ends. Let's get started.</p>	
<p><b>Teacher Model/Read-Aloud</b> (5:00 minutes)  So, as I said, today we're going to read a poem about love. This poem is by Edgar Allan Poe, and if you know anything about Edgar Allen Poe, then you'll know that when you usually think of his name, you don't think of love, so while this is a love poem it does have a dark side to it.</p> <p>[project poem if possible]</p> <p><b>Let's just read through the poem the first time to just get a feeling for what it's about. Ready?</b></p> <p>[Read the poem below and read slowly from the projected poem and pause after every couplet. Spacing is set up accordingly.]</p> <p><b>"It was many and many a year ago,  In a kingdom by the sea,  [Pause]  That a maiden there lived whom you may know  By the name of Annabel Lee;  [Pause]  And this maiden she lived with no other thought  Than to love and be loved by me.  [Pause]  I was a child and <i>she</i> was a child,  In this kingdom by the sea,  [Pause]  But we loved with a love that was more than love—  I and my Annabel Lee—"  [Pause]  With a love that the wingèd seraphs of Heaven  Coveted her and me."  [Pause]  And this was the reason that, long ago,  In this kingdom by the sea,  [Pause]  A wind blew out of a cloud, chilling  My beautiful Annabel Lee;  [Pause]  So that her highborn kinsmen came  And bore her away from me,  [Pause]  To shut her up in a sepulchre  In this kingdom by the sea.</b></p>	<p>Students follow along, comprehending the text.</p>

[Pause]

The angels, not half so happy in Heaven,  
Went envying her and me—

[Pause]

Yes!—that was the reason (as all men know,  
In this kingdom by the sea)

[Pause]

That the wind came out of the cloud by night,  
Chilling and killing my Annabel Lee.

[Pause]

“But our love it was stronger by far than the love  
Of those who were older than we—“

[Pause]

“Of many far wiser than we—  
And neither the angels in Heaven above”

[Pause]

“Nor the demons down under the sea  
Can ever dissever my soul from the soul

[Pause]

“Of the beautiful Annabel Lee;

[Pause]

“For the moon never beams, without bringing me dreams  
Of the beautiful Annabel Lee;”

[Pause]

“And the stars never rise, but I feel the bright eyes  
Of the beautiful Annabel Lee;

[Pause]

“And so, all the night-tide, I lie down by the side  
Of my darling—my darling—my life and my bride,

[Pause]

“In her sepulchre there by the sea—  
In her tomb by the sounding sea.

Wow! Well we definitely know it's a love poem, don't we?  
Poe mentions the word love over and over. Did you see  
where the poem turns kind of dark though? Let's reread it a  
few lines at a time and think about what the poem is saying.

<p><b>Guided Practice</b> (20:00)</p> <p><b>First, let's take out that pencil and piece of paper. As we discuss this poem, it would probably be a good idea to take notes. We'll be talking about this poem again in the next lesson as well.</b></p> <p>[teacher reads first two lines]</p> <p><b>It was many and many a year ago, In a kingdom by the sea,</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>What genre or type of story does this opening remind you of?</b></li></ul> <p><b>Think back to when you were younger, and you read stories like Cinderella.</b></p> <p>[pause for think time]</p> <p><b>Yes! It reminds me of a fairy tale. You know, kind of like "Once upon a time in a kingdom far, far away". Why in the world would Poe want to start his story of the woman he loved so much with a fairy tale beginning?</b></p> <p>[pause for think time]</p> <p><b>I agree. When I think of a fairytale, I think of things like a prince finding his princess and falling into love like no one ever has before.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>So, why do you think Poe has chosen to start his love poem like a fairytale?</b></li></ul> <p>[pause for think time]</p> <p><b>You got it! He wants to show us that the love between he and Annabel Lee was just like the love you find in fairytales. Great job! Now, let's reread the final line in the first stanza.</b></p> <p><b>"and this maiden she lived with no other thought Than to love and be loved by me."</b></p> <p><b>First, let's take a look at the word maiden.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>When you think of a maiden, do you think of an older or younger lady?</b></li></ul> <p>[think time]</p>	<p>Students begin to take notes.</p> <p>Students follow along and think and act as instructed, gradually gaining confidence and competence.</p>
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**Yes indeed. A maiden is a younger woman, and here is the key, usually a younger woman that is unmarried. So, was the poet married to Annabel Lee?**

[think time- from here on out please give think time after every question]

**Probably not, but according to the poet, Annabel Lee had one job.**

- **What was it?**

**Yes, to be loved and love the poet. How romantic?**

- **So now on your piece of paper and with your pencil, I'd like you to write the words stanza 1. Then in just a line or two try to write a summary of the first stanza based on what we just talked about.**

[Give students enough time to write]

**Alright, so here is what I wrote. Yours doesn't have to match mine exactly. "There is a young man and woman so in love that it feels like a fairytale. In fact, their only job is to love each other." Great job! Let's go to Stanza 2.**

[teacher reads stanza 2]

**She was a child and I was a child,  
In this kingdom by the sea;  
But we loved with a love that was more than love-  
I and my Annabel Lee;  
With a love that the wing'ed seraphs of heaven  
Coveted her and me.**

**Wait a minute. Poe uses the word child to describe both himself and Annabel Lee.**

- **Does that mean they were out for a walk in their baby carriages one day and they saw each other and fell in love?**

**Of course not. Why do you think that Poe chose to use the word child to describe both of them?**

Students will write a two-line summary of stanza 1. They will then compare their answer to yours.

Students follow along and think and act as instructed, gradually gaining confidence and competence.

That sounds better doesn't it? They were probably pretty young. In fact remember what we said about a maiden? It kind of sounds like they were teenagers.

- If that's so, do you think teenagers feel love very deeply?

Yup, I think so too. Ok, let's go to the last two lines of this stanza. I'll read them again.

With a love that the wing'ed seraphs of heaven  
Coveted her and me.

Wow, there are a couple of vocabulary words we have to think about here. The first one, I'll bet you can figure out using context clues. That word is seraphs. When I'm using context clues to figure out a word, I always look before and after the word that I'm trying to figure out. The word before is "winged" or "wing'ed" (same thing right?) and the words after are "of heaven".

- So, what do you think a seraph is?

Of course, a seraph is an Angel. The other word that I need to figure out is coveted. This time I'll just tell you that coveted means "envied", so let me reread the last two lines and you tell me what Poe is saying.

"With a love that the wing'ed seraphs of heaven  
Coveted her and me." Yep, even the angels envied the love that Poe and Annabel Lee had.

- So again, write a really quick summary of this stanza based on what we just talked about.

[Pause]

So here's what I wrote for this stanza. Poe and Annabel Lee were teenagers. They had such a strong love that even the angels in Heaven envied them. Awesome job! Keep up the great work!

Let's go on to the next two stanzas.

[read]

"And this was the reason that, long ago,  
In this kingdom by the sea,  
A wind blew out of a cloud by night Chilling my Annabel Lee;

Students will write a two-line summary of stanza 2. They will then compare their answer to yours.

Students follow along and think and act as instructed, gradually gaining confidence and competence.

In this kingdom by the sea.”

Let’s look at the last two lines first.

“A wind blew out of a cloud by night Chilling my Annabel Lee;  
In this kingdom by the sea.”

- So what do you think happened here?

I think the word that gives me the most problem here is chilling. It says that a wind blew out of a cloud and chilled her. So right now, I’m thinking it must have made her cold.

- Why did the wind blow out of the clouds and make her cold?

Now, let’s look at the first two lines.

“And this was the reason that, long ago,  
In this kingdom by the sea,”

- What was THIS reason?
- Go back and read your summary of the last stanza and see if you can find a reason a wind might come out of the clouds and chill Annabel Lee.

Good! The angels were so jealous of their love that they allowed a wind to come down and make Annabel Lee cold. But wait there’s more. Listen to what happens next.

The angels, not half so happy in heaven,  
Went envying her and me-  
Yes! - that was the reason (as all men know,  
In this kingdom by the sea)  
That the wind came out of a cloud by night, Chilling and  
killing my Annabel Lee.

Whoa! That got dark quickly didn’t it? We were right about the angels being jealous.

- What do you think is meant by a chill or chilling?

Yup, it very well could be a real wind, and then the cold air or wind caused Annabel Lee to catch a cold.

- Obviously then, what does the cold cause her to do?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Yes, unfortunately she dies, but who does Poe blame for her death?</li></ul> <p>Wow, can you believe it. He blames the angels in Heaven. We'll talk a little more in our next lesson about why Poe would blame the angels, but for now, let's write another summary. This time make sure that you focus on how she died. Go ahead and get started. I just need a couple of lines.</p> <p>[pause for students to write]</p> <p>Great job! Here's what I wrote. Make sure you compare what you wrote to my answer. I simply said "a wind came from the angels that made Annabel Lee catch a cold and die. The wind was sent because the angels were jealous of Poe and Annabel Lee."</p> <p>Alright, two more stanzas to go.</p> <p>[read next stanza]</p> <p>"But our love it was stronger by far than the love Of those who were older than we- Of many far wiser than we- And neither the angels in heaven above, Nor the demons down under the sea, Can ever dissever my soul from the soul Of the beautiful Annabel Lee. For the moon never beams without bringing me dreams Of the beautiful Annabel Lee;"</p> <p>Awwwww, I don't know if I want to cry or hug someone. Let's start with the first three lines of this stanza.</p> <p>[teacher read]</p> <p>"But our love it was stronger by far than the love Of those who were older than we- Of many far wiser than we-"</p> <p>Older and wiser.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Who do you think Poe is referring to here?</li></ul> <p>Yes, I believe it to be the angels. My guess is that they are both wiser and older than either Poe or Annabel Lee. Now, here is the really cool part of the poem though. Listen to the rest again.</p>	<p>Students will write a two-line summary of the stanza. They will then compare their answer to yours.</p> <p>Students follow along and think and act as instructed, gradually gaining confidence and competence.</p>
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[read]

**“And neither the angels in heaven above, Nor the demons  
down under the sea,  
Can ever dissever my soul from the soul  
Of the beautiful Annabel Lee.  
For the moon never beams without bringing me dreams  
Of the beautiful Annabel Lee;”**

**There’s an important word here that we need to try to figure out. That is dissever. Remember earlier when we used context clues to figure out that seraphs meant angels? In that case, we used just the words in the same line to help us. Many times that works, but other times we have consider the whole stanza, paragraph, or even the entire text up to that point.**

**Let’s think about what has happened in the poem so far. [Pause for students to think.] Yes, that’s right! The narrator and Anabelle Lee were young and so in love that the angels were jealous. One day a cold wind came and chilled Anabelle Lee, eventually killer her. The narrator blames the angels for her death. Here in this stanza, he says “And neither the angels in heaven above, Nor the demons / down under the sea, / Can ever dissever my soul from the soul / of the beautiful Anabelle Lee.” She’s dead, and he’s alive, but he still loves her and is connected to her, right? Like, they’re soulmates – together forever. So here, he says that angels and demons, symbols we associate with the afterlife, can’t *dissever* his soul from Annabelle’s soul. That means that the narrator believes that no matter what, he and Annabel won’t be separated, even by death. Let’s see if that makes sense here. “neither the angels in heaven above, nor the demons /down under the sea, / Can ever separate my soul from the soul / of Annabelle Lee.” Does this fit and make sense with the rest of the poem so far? [Pause.] Yes, it sure does, and now I learned a synonym for separate – dissever!**

**Sounds so romantic huh? Just like a fairy tale. Well, this wouldn’t be Poe without a bit of a dark twist. Check out these last lines.**

**“For the moon never beams without bringing me dreams  
Of the beautiful Annabel Lee;  
In her sepulchre there by the sea, In her tomb by the side of  
the sea.”**

<p>Uh oh, one more vocabulary word, but I think you got this, this time. Use context clues to figure out the basic meaning of sepulcher. Yup, it's basically another word for tomb.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• So, Poe says he'll never forget her because every time the moon shines he thinks of her. How does he think of her though?</li> </ul> <p>Yes, he thinks of her in the tomb. We'll talk about this more in our next lesson as well. For now, go ahead and summarize this final part of the poem.</p> <p>[Pause]</p> <p>Here's what I said, No one can ever make Poe forget about Annabel Lee. He will think of her every time the moon shines. He will think of her lying in her tomb.</p> <p>Whew, Poe has an interesting way of showing love doesn't he? You did a great job following along today! Thank you for all your hard work. Keep your notes because we'll be using them next time to dive a little more deeply into the poem since we have the basic meaning now.</p>	<p>Students will write a two-line summary of the stanza. They will then compare their answer to yours.</p>
<p><b>Independent Work</b> (2:00)</p> <p>Finally today, I'm going to ask you to do just a little more work for me before we meet again.</p> <p>[teacher should write assignment on chart paper for students to see]</p> <p>I'd like you to think about a hobby that you simply love to do. It can even be playing a video game (be specific), to watching TV, (again think about a specific TV show), to cooking (a specific dish), to sleeping.</p> <p>In a paragraph, describe why you love that thing so much. Then, be sure to have it ready for our next lesson because we're going to "Poe-ize" it in a love poem.</p>	<p>Student will write to prompt.</p>
<p><b>Closing</b> (1 min)</p> <p>I enjoyed reading and unpacking "Annabel Lee" with you today! Thank you for inviting me into your home. I look forward to seeing you in our next lesson in Tennessee's At Home Learning Series! Bye!</p>	