

Socratic Seminar Preparation

Read “The Tell-Tale Heart” (beginning on page 82 in the textbook). Then, prepare to engage in a thorough discussion of the following questions (providing support, offering multiple viewpoints, etc.). Feel free to print the story on your own, highlighting your evidence and annotating the text. You will be able to use your book, the article, and your notes during the Socratic seminar.

1. What is the effect of first person point of view in the story? Why do you think Poe chose to use this POV? How would it change if it were written in third person limited? This should be a deep analysis of the text, not just a discussion of the definition of first and third person points of view.
2. What is the narrator’s purpose in telling the reader his story? Is the narrator of “The Tell-Tale Heart” reliable or unreliable? How does this affect the story and your experience as a reader? Be prepared to thoroughly discuss and support your position.
3. Where is dramatic irony used in the story? What is its purpose in this piece? Do you think it is effective or not? Why? You should have multiple examples of dramatic irony ready to discuss.
4. What do you think is actually happening at the end of the story? Is the narrator really hearing what he thinks he is hearing? If so, how is this possible? If not, what may be actually happening?

Read “The Complexity of Fear.” Then, prepare to engage in a thorough discussion of the following question. Feel free to print the article on your own, highlighting your evidence and annotating the text. You will be able to use your book, the article, and your notes during the Socratic seminar.

5. According to Mary C. Lamia, what is the difference between fear and anxiety? Be prepared to thoroughly discuss using evidence from the text.

Prepare to discuss the following question using both pieces you have read, providing sufficient evidence *from both pieces* to support your claims. Be prepared to engage in a thorough discussion (providing support, offering multiple viewpoints, etc.).

6. Analyze and be ready to discuss the emotions felt by the narrator of “The Tell-Tale Heart.” According to the information in the article, was he driven by fear or anxiety? How do you know? Use evidence from both texts to support your answer.