

"The Tell-Tale Heart" Close Read Guide

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1. In the first paragraph, how does the narrator describe himself? Identify any contradictions in his description.
2. Does the narrator's opinion of himself make you trust him more or less? Explain.
3. In the second paragraph, what contradiction does the narrator describe concerning his opinion of the old man?
4. In the fourth paragraph, how does the narrator behave in front of the old man? How does this contrast with his intentions and actions?
5. Explain how the information the narrator shares on the first page affects your impression of the him.

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6. B. Suspense
7. C. Suspense

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8. D. Evaluate Narrator (Explain)
9. How likely is it that neighbors would be able to hear the old man's heartbeat? What does this reveal about the narrator? Explain
10. E. Suspense (Requires **Cited** Evidence)

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11. Analyze Visuals (Use Evidence from the Image)
12. The narrator defends his sanity again when he describes the way he concealed the body. What words does he use in this defense? Why does the narrator believe this proves his sanity? What about his actions makes him appear insane?

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13. How does the narrator's emotional and physical state change in the paragraphs from lines 119-133? What can you infer is the cause of this change?
14. Describe the police officers' behavior in the paragraph that begins at line 134 and ends on line 150. Is this response we would expect given the narrator's behavior at this time? What does that tell you about the reliability of the narrator?
15. F. Suspense (Requires **Cited** Evidence)

Discussion

16. How reliable is the narrator of this story? Should readers believe what he tells them about himself and about the events in the story? How would this be change if the story were told from a third person limited point of view? Explain.
17. ***What role does dramatic irony play in this story? Analyze at least two scenes in this story using multiple pieces of evidence and elaboration to support your claim.***