

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Working with Context Clues: The Raven

Below are the opening stanzas of Edgar Allan Poe's 1845 poem "The Raven." Read the passage and pay special attention to the underlined words. Complete the grid at the bottom of the page.

### THE RAVEN - EDGAR ALLAN POE

Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary,  
Over many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore—  
While I nodded, nearly napping, suddenly there came a tapping,  
As of some one gently rapping—rapping at my chamber door.  
"Tis some visitor," I muttered, "tapping at my chamber door—  
Only this and nothing more."



Ah, distinctly I remember, it was in the bleak December,  
And each separate dying ember wrought its ghost upon the floor.  
Eagerly I wished the morrow;—vainly I had sought to borrow  
From my books surcease of sorrow—sorrow for the lost Lenore—  
For the rare and radiant maiden whom the angels name Lenore—  
Nameless here for evermore.

Word	part of speech	What do you think it means?	What were your clues?
1. dreary			
2. pondered			
3. weary			
4. quaint			
5. lore			
6. chamber			
7. distinctly			
8. bleak			
9. wrought			
10. morrow			
11. vainly			
12. surcease			

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**Key**

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**Student answers will vary for columns 3-4. Example of correct answers:**

Word	part of speech	What do you think it means?	What were your clues?
1. dreary	<b>adjective</b>	<b>miserable</b>	
2. pondered	<b>verb</b>	<b>thought</b>	
3. weary	<b>adjective</b>	<b>tired</b>	
4. quaint	<b>adjective</b>	<b>old-fashioned</b>	
5. lore	<b>noun</b>	<b>knowledge</b>	
6. chamber	<b>noun</b>	<b>bedroom</b>	
7. distinctly	<b>adverb</b>	<b>clearly</b>	
8. bleak	<b>adjective</b>	<b>cold</b>	
9. wrought	<b>verb</b>	<b>made</b>	
10. morrow	<b>noun</b>	<b>morning</b>	
11. vainly	<b>adverb</b>	<b>unsuccessfully</b>	
12. surcease	<b>noun</b>	<b>end</b>	