**BEFORE THE STORY** – Read each following statements and decide whether you agree or disagree with them, placing a check mark in the correct column. After we’ve read the story, go back and decide if the author agrees or disagrees with these same statements.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Statements | You Agree | You Disagree | Author Agrees | Author Disagrees |
| People who are insane always know that they are insane. |  |  |  |  |
| Sane people sometimes imagine that they hear things. |  |  |  |  |
| If you commit a major crime, sooner or later you will be caught |  |  |  |  |
| When you’ve done something wrong, it’s agony to wonder if you’ll be caught. |  |  |  |  |
| All people share the same fears (i.e., the same things frighten all people.) |  |  |  |  |

Questions for *The Tell-Tale Heart*

1. Describe the narrator in detail. What is your first impression of him?

2. What specifically is it about the old man that troubles the narrator? Why does it trouble him?

3. What does the narrator do every night? Why?

4. How does the narrator feel after he commits the murder? Is he worried about being caught?

5. Why does the killer confess?

6. Name 3 details, descriptions, or actions that the author uses to create an atmosphere of horror.

The Tell-Tale Heart Drawing Activity

You work for a newspaper as the staff’s artist. One of your coworkers comes to you with a great story on Edgar Allen Poe’s “The Tell-Tale Heart” and asks you to illustrate it. For this news assignment, you must do the following:

-          Choose a memorable scene from the story (example: the murder scene, the confession scene, etc.) and illustrate it in color.   
-          Give an explanation of the picture – what is happening in this scene? Be as specific as possible.   
-          Finally, you must include two kinds of figurative language, which you come up with on your own, to make your description more interesting (choose two: alliteration, onomatopoeia, metaphor, simile, idiom, and personification)  
-          The newspaper’s deadline is Monday.