Suspense

- Setting: dark
  - rain
  - abandoned - no one to help
  - Trapped - airplane, etc.
  - woods - easy to hide
- Conflict leads to confrontation
- Who, What, Where, When, Why, How →
  - one or more of these is kept secret
    - ex - Scream mask (who)
      - Indiana Jones (how)
- Identify with protagonist
- Red Herring - decoy / diversion
  - unrecognized threat
- Threat of danger: Physical, Emotional, Psychologica[l]
- Irony - unexpected twist
  - when reader knows but character does not.
- Foreshadowing - hint at future events

* Movies:
  - lighting
  - music
  - camera angles

* Writing:
  - Short sent = fast pac[e]
  - 5 senses & "Gut Instinct"
  - Rollercoaster
  - Strong Action Verbs
  - Show Don't Tell
  - Dialogue

- Cliffhanger - ending leaves you guessing what happens.

Edgar Allan Poe

- Tragedies: Mom died when he was 2 (illness)
  - Dad abandoned him
  - Wife died when she was 20 (illness)
  - Poe's death is a mystery
  - He was addicted to gambling — lots of debt

- Style: Writes about dark + violent topics (macabre)
  - Long, descriptive sentences
  - "old-fashioned" + difficult vocab
  - 1st person POV (usually killer)
  - Dashes.

Unreliable Narrator —
When you can't trust the person telling the story (maybe lying to reader)
  - small kid (avoid trouble)
  - old person (bad memory)
  - crazy person

Analyze Point of View

Point of view is the method of narration used in a short story, novel, narrative poem, or work of nonfiction. In a story told from the **third-person point of view,** the **narrator,** or the voice that tells the story, is an outside observer. In a story told from **first-person point of view,** the narrator is a character in the story and uses the pronouns *I* and *me.*

Just as you can't believe everything everyone tells you, you can't always believe everything you learn from a first-person narrator. An **unreliable narrator** is a narrator whose assessment of events cannot be trusted for some reason—he or she might be purposefully lying, mentally unstable, or too young or unsophisticated to fully understand events. In order to determine whether or not a narrator is reliable, consider his or her actions, attitudes, and statements, and then decide whether he or she is generally trustworthy.

Do you think the narrator of "The Tell-Tale Heart" is reliable? Review the story and identify the lines that help you decide.

Analyze Suspense

Suspense is the sense of growing tension, fear, and excitement felt by the reader. When a story is suspenseful, the reader becomes increasingly curious about what will happen next. Writers use different techniques to create suspense in fiction. Notice these examples from "The Tell-Tale Heart."

Technique	Example
Describing a character's anxiety or fear	"... groan of mortal terror ... it was the low, stifled sound that arises from the bottom of the soul when overcharged with awe."
Using vivid words to describe dramatic sights, sounds, or feelings	"He had the eye of a vulture—a pale blue eye with a film over it. Whenever it fell upon me, my blood ran cold."
Repeating words, phrases, or characters' actions	the actions the narrator repeated as he entered the old man's room each night

As you analyze "The Tell-Tale Heart," look for additional examples of each technique.

Small child - Man locked me in my a room - misunderstand
bully - tells principal victim started it - lying
why can't we trust this narrator?
Proof he's crazy. Parts we can't trust.

ehemently
vē′ə-mənt-lē) *adv.*
f you do something
ehemently, you do it
with intense emotion.

lerision
dĭ-rĭzh′ən) *n.*
Derision is jeering
aughter or ridicule.

ypocritical
hĭp′ə-krĭt′-kəl) *adj.*
f someone is
ypocritical, the
person is false or
deceptive.

Language Conventions: Using Dashes

A writer's use of punctuation not only helps readers understand the writer's message, it can also signal how the writer wants the text to be read. A **dash** (—) is a horizontal line that is longer than a hyphen. Writers may use a dash for different purposes, as noted in the following chart.

Purpose	Example
to signal a sudden break in thought	"I did so for seven long nights—every night just after midnight—but found the eye always closed . . ."
to signal the reader to pause and pay attention	"I resolved to open a little—a very, very little crevice in the lantern."
to let the reader better hear a narrator's thoughts *or Voice*	"I went down to open it with a light heart—for what had I *now* to fear?"

pg. 82

pg. 84

Notice that when the interrupting thought appears in the middle of the sentence, one dash appears at the beginning of the thought and one dash appears at the end. Look at this example from "The Tell-Tale Heart":

> He had the eye of a vulture—a pale blue eye, with a film over it. Whenever it fell upon me, my blood ran cold; and so by degrees—very gradually—I made up my mind to take the life of the old man, and thus rid myself of the eye forever.

pg. 81

The dash after "vulture," signals the reader to pause and pay attention. The two dashes surrounding "very gradually" emphasize the slow, gradual process the narrator went through before deciding to kill the old man. Poe uses dashes not only to indicate pauses, but also to let the reader hear the excited, irrational voice of the narrator.

Practice and Apply Working with a partner, write a paragraph in which your narrator tells readers about him- or herself. Use dashes to

- set off a sudden break in thought.
- signal the reader to pause and pay attention.
- let the reader better hear your narrator's voice.

"Tell-Tale ♡" & "Black Cat"

Compare/Contrast

	Similarities	Differences
Elements of Suspense	Foreshadow at beginning Ironic endings Sound effects Danger=main char	Real sound in BC / Imagined sound TTH TTH Red Herring More FS in BC Only TTH cliffhanger
Main Character	Obsession with eye diseased (unreliable) say not crazy/mad kill someone they live with and like	Alcoholic in BC / Mental Illness TTH TTH repeats self TTH stalks/ plans
Action/ Events/ Plot	Police arrive narrator gives self away hide body in house	BC multiple murder TTH cuts up body BC house burns

1