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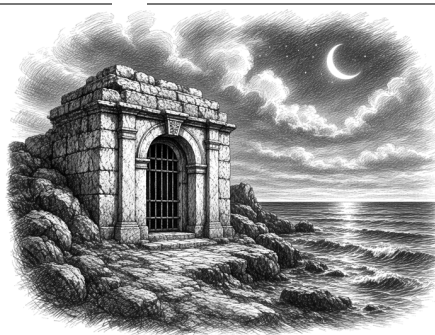
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# Annabel Lee

*by Edgar Allan Poe*

Grades 7–10 · Common Core RL.8.4, RL.8.2, RL.8.5

Poe wrote “Annabel Lee” in 1849, the year he died; it was published just after his death. Like many of his poems, it mourns the death of a beautiful young woman. Its long repeated lines and the rhymes on “Lee,” “sea” and “me” give it the sound of a song or ballad.



## THE POEM

It was many and many a year ago,  
In a kingdom by the sea,  
That a maiden there lived whom you may know  
By the name of ANNABEL LEE;  
5 And this maiden she lived with no other thought  
Than to love and be loved by me.

I was a child and she was a child,  
In this kingdom by the sea:  
But we loved with a love that was more than love--  
10 I and my ANNABEL LEE;  
With a love that the winged seraphs of heaven  
Coveted her and me.

And this was the reason that, long ago,  
In this kingdom by the sea,  
15 A wind blew out of a cloud, chilling  
My beautiful ANNABEL LEE;  
So that her highborn kinsmen came  
And bore her away from me,  
To shut her up in a sepulchre  
20 In this kingdom by the sea.

The angels, not half so happy in heaven,  
Went envying her and me--  
Yes!--that was the reason (as all men know,  
In this kingdom by the sea)  
25 That the wind came out of the cloud by night,  
Chilling and killing my ANNABEL LEE.

But our love it was stronger by far than the love  
Of those who were older than we--  
Of many far wiser than we--  
30 And neither the angels in heaven above,  
Nor the demons down under the sea,  
Can ever dissever my soul from the soul  
Of the beautiful ANNABEL LEE.  
For the moon never beams without bringing me dreams  
35 Of the beautiful ANNABEL LEE;  
And the stars never rise but I see the bright eyes  
Of the beautiful ANNABEL LEE;  
And so, all the night-tide, I lie down by the side  
Of my darling, my darling, my life and my bride,  
40 In her sepulchre there by the sea--  
In her tomb by the side of the sea.

#### VOCABULARY

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**kingdom by the sea** — the dreamlike setting of the poem

**seraphs** — the highest order of angels

**coveted** — wanted something that belongs to someone else

**highborn kinsmen** — relatives of noble rank

**sepulchre** — a tomb or burial place

**dissever** — separate or cut apart

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does the speaker describe his love for Annabel Lee? Find two phrases.

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2. According to the speaker, what caused Annabel Lee's death, and why?

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3. What words and sounds repeat throughout the poem? What effect does this have?

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4. What does the speaker claim cannot "dissever" his soul from hers?

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5. Look at the last stanza. Is the speaker comforted, or is his grief taking over? Support your answer.

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## WRITING PROMPT

Write a short ballad (3–4 stanzas) about a place you love, repeating one place name or phrase at the end of each stanza the way Poe repeats "Annabel Lee."

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## Annabel Lee — Answer Key

1. “we loved with a love that was more than love”; they were children in a kingdom by the sea; the angels envied them.
2. A wind came out of a cloud, “chilling and killing” her; the speaker says the angels, “not half so happy in Heaven,” envied their love.
3. “Annabel Lee,” “kingdom by the sea,” “sea,” “me.” The repetition is musical and hypnotic, and it shows the speaker can’t stop thinking of her.
4. Neither the angels in Heaven nor the demons under the sea can separate their souls.
5. Accept supported answers. He finds her in the moon and stars, but lying down “all the night-tide” by her tomb suggests his grief consumes him.

*Read the full poem online: [poetrycatalog.com/annabel-lee-edgar-allan-poe/](http://poetrycatalog.com/annabel-lee-edgar-allan-poe/)*