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<div align="center">Annabel Lee by Edgar Allan Poe: Analysis</div>

Edgar Allan Poe was an American short-story writer, poet, critic, and editor who is famous for his cultivation of mystery and the aspect of death. Poe had been abandoned by his father when he was a newborn, shortly after the birth of his sister his mother passed away due to tuberculosis. Poe was soon adopted by the Allan's in 1811. While Poe was in college, he developed a gambling problem that put him in debt. Poe got into an argument with his foster father, who frowned upon his gambling. Poe abandoned both college and his foster family. Shortly after the death of Poe's foster parents he went to move with relatives. He soon fell in love with his 13-year-old cousin Virginia Clemm. "I love, *you know* I love Virginia passionately devotedly. I cannot express in words the fervent devotion I feel towards my dear little cousin — my own darling," wrote the 26-year-old Poe in a letter to his aunt, begging for permission to marry her. His aunt left the decision up to Virginia who soon said yes to the proposal. Poe and Virginia had been married for 11 years until Virginia died from tuberculosis. Virginias death was two years prior to the publication of this poem. This poem was thought to be a form of mourning for Poe. "Annabel Lee" was published two days after Poe's death in 1849.

Published October 9, 1849 "Annabel Lee" by Edgar Allan Poe explores how strong love can be no matter what happens. Broadly it's about the death of a beautiful young women who was deeply in love with a man. Poe uses different forms of language, and themes to tell a story within the poem. Poe wrote regularly about romance, but often in dark and mysterious ways. This poem

was published two days after the death of Poe. "Annabel Lee" was the last well-known poem by Poe.

"Annabel Lee" is a poem that has a lot of meaning behind it. Poe uses different forms of literature to tell the story of Annabel Lee. When Poe says, "In a kingdom by the sea," (2) it gives you a visual of a peaceful area that is not so well known. The kingdom is a metaphorical place for Annabel Lee and her love to live privately. It was obvious that they had a strong love for one another. They had a love so strong they were inseparable. Even though they loved when they were young, the speaker states "But our love it was stronger by far than the love/Of those who were older than we —" (27-28). These lines provide imagery for you to think about how an old couple loves, how much care and compassion they have for one another. For him to compare their young love to the love of people that have been together for many years is to really say how strong their love really was. The purpose of the poem was to show that the man's love for his beloved Annabel Lee will always stay strong. Even when Poe says, "And bore her away from me, /To shut her up in a sepulchre" (18-19) he still reiterates how his love will never fade.

Within the poem Poe writes about how he believes that the jealousy of other is what killed Annabel Lee. Poe believe that the two's love was so strong that it made others jealous as seen in lines "With a love that the wingèd seraphs of Heaven/Coveted her and me". (11-12) This line is very important to the poem; it talks about the angels from heaven and how the "coveted" their love. Coveted is a very different word choice, to covet means to want something really badly, usually something that doesn't belong to you. Poe could have chosen a different word like envy or despise, but he chooses this word because it represents something more than jealousy. Poe talks about how the angels were not possibly as happy as the man and Annabel Lee. "The angels, not half so happy in Heaven, /Went envying her and me—"(14-15). Poe again comes to reiterate the

fact that the angels were envying Annabel Lee's love. The angels "envying" them both and their relationship together. He says that's the reason why she was killed, because the angels despised what they had so much that the killed his beloved Annabel Lee.

Within the poem you will see lots of repetition of certain sentences or words. Poets use repletion to show the importance of the object. In one sentence "But we loved with a love that was more than love—" he uses the word love three times. Poe wanted to show that their love was true, it wasn't just something that he believed they had but it was something he felt between the two of them. The whole purpose of the poem is to show how strong their love was for one another. Poe wanted to make sure that the reader would gather a strong understanding of how their love really was. Poe also repeats the fact of jealousy. It gives you the vision that Annabel Lee couldn't have possibly died without someone trying to kill her. And Poe believed that the angels up above were not happy as the two were so they thought by killing Annabel Lee it would add to their own happiness.

Many people believe that by writing this poem Poe found a way to mourn the death of his beloved wife. Adam Bradford states, "Poe's work comprises a critique of the nineteenth-century's wide-spread rituals, practices, and conventions of mourning and memorializing." It was thought to be that Poe believed by writing a poem it would be a good way for people to view the beauty of his wife. Poetry was a way for him to mourn his loved ones. Mary Louise Kete states that in the 19th century, "poems, gravestones, and hair-remembrancers … not only [worked] to preserve the memory of their lost [loved ones] but also to create a world that would deny that loss …. [and such artifacts worked] to prevent the alienation that the separation of death might otherwise entail" (Kete, pp.66). Kete suggests the poem was a coping mechanism for Poe to mourn his wife. By writing the poem it allowed him to express his emotions through his words. The poem allowed

him to share the beauty of his wife with the world by telling a story of a beautiful young women who suddenly died. Even though Annabel Lee died, the man's love was still forever lasting. Nassau Literary Magazine simply suggests that "[t]he pathos of Annabel Lee would touch even the hardest hearted man, even if he were ignorant of the circumstances under which it was written. But its tenderness seems still more exquisite when it is considered, as it really was, a tribute to his dear wife" (INCOG, pp. 344). The form of emotions he shows with the words and language he chooses gives you a chill. Poe shows the man's love for Annabel Lee was so strong that no day would go on without his thinking of the love that he and Annabel lee shared. Similarly, the death of Poe's wife does not take away from their love though. With the beautiful choice of words that Poe has chosen, it shows the beauty of his wife. It shows the beauty of their love which will never be lost.

Although Poe is one of the most well know poets in the world, many people don't actually know his background. A poem like "Annabel Lee" is a poem that requires you to have some insight on the author's life. If you did not understand what Poe was reflecting this poem to you would just think it's about a man who lost his love. This poem was a way for Poe to describe his love for his beloved wife Virginia. It was a way for his to describe why she died, why God would have pulled her away from him.

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