



**MUSEUM**  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

**Activity:** Poe-cabulary

**Intended Grade/Audience:** 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>

<p><b>Overview of the Activity:</b> This vocabulary exercise introduces students to the works of Edgar Allan Poe while also expanding their vocabulary of the words Poe invented. Students will identify meanings, parts of speech, and parts of the word through context clues in the text and using word-reference materials.</p>	<p><b>Student Objectives:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Students will be introduced to Edgar Allan Poe to create a lasting interest and appreciation for his literature.</li><li>2. Students will strengthen their reading comprehension.</li><li>3. Students will expand vocabulary by using context clues to identify the meaning of unfamiliar words.</li><li>4. Students will expand vocabulary by identifying roots, affixes, and the part of speech of words.</li><li>5. Students will use word-reference material to identify word origins and derivations.</li></ol>	<p><b>Activity Time:</b> 30 minutes</p>
<p><b>Virginia SOLs addressed and/or met:</b></p> <p><b>5<sup>th</sup> grade:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Reading - 5.4</b> The student will expand vocabulary when reading.</li><li>● <b>Reading - 5.5</b> The student will read and demonstrate comprehension of fictional texts, literary nonfiction, and poetry.</li></ul> <p><b>For 6<sup>th</sup> grade:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Reading – 6.4</b> The student will read and determine the meanings of unfamiliar words and phrases within authentic texts.</li><li>● <b>Reading – 6.5</b> The student will read and demonstrate comprehension of a variety of fictional texts, literary nonfiction, and poetry.</li></ul> <p><b>For 7<sup>th</sup> grade:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Reading - 7.4</b> The student will read and determine the meanings of unfamiliar words and phrases within authentic texts.</li><li>● <b>Reading - 7.5</b> The student will read and demonstrate comprehension of a variety of fictional texts, literary nonfiction.</li></ul> <p><b>For 8<sup>th</sup> grade:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Reading - 8.4</b> The student will apply knowledge of word origins, and figurative language to extend vocabulary development within authentic texts.</li><li>● <b>Reading - 8.5</b> - The student will read and analyze a variety of fictional texts, literary nonfiction, poetry, and drama.</li></ul>		

**Directions:** Throughout his literary career, Edgar Allan Poe invented/coined 1,100 words. You will identify the meaning, parts of speech, and identify roots and affixes of the words he invented. First, using

context clues from selected readings, infer the definition, part of speech, and parts of the word. Then, using word-reference material, such as a dictionary, identify and copy the same word information.

**Bugaboo:**

“The Premature Burial” (1844) by Edgar Allan Poe

*“My soul acquired tone — acquired temper. I went abroad. I took vigorous exercise. I breathed the free air of Heaven. I thought upon other subjects than Death. I discarded my medical books.*

*“Buchan” I burned. I read no “Night Thoughts” — no fustian about church-yards — no **bugaboo** tales — such as this.”*

Read through the text above to infer the definition, part of speech (noun, adjective, verb, adverb) and word parts (prefix, root, suffix).

1. Based on the text above what do you think is the definition of the word bugaboo?
2. Based on the text above what do you think is the part of speech of the word bugaboo?
3. Based on the text above what do you think is the root word and/or affixes of the word bugaboo?

Now, using a dictionary, copy the definition, part of speech, and word parts of the word.

1. Definition:
2. Part of speech:
3. Word parts:

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**Tintinnabulation:**

“The Bells” (1849) by Edgar Allan Poe

*“Keeping time, time, time,*

*In a sort of Runic rhyme,*

*To the **tintinnabulation** that so musically wells*

*From the bells, bells, bells, bells,*

*Bells, bells, bells—*

*From the jingling and the tinkling of the bells”*

Read through the text above to infer the definition, part of speech (noun, adjective, verb, adverb) and word parts (prefix, root, suffix).

1. Based on the text above what do you think is the definition of the word tintinnabulation?
2. Based on the text above what do you think is the part of speech of the word tintinnabulation?

3. Based on the text above what do you think is the root word and/or affixes of the word tintinnabulation?

Now, using a dictionary, copy the definition, part of speech, and word parts of the word.

1. Definition:
2. Part of speech:
3. Word parts:

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**Hysteria:**

“The Fall of the House of Usher” (1839)

*“His countenance was, as usual, cadaverously wan — but, moreover, there was a species of mad hilarity in his eyes — an evidently restrained **hysteria** in his whole demeanor.”*

Read through the text above to infer the definition, part of speech (noun, adjective, verb, adverb) and word parts (prefix, root, suffix).

1. Based on the text above what do you think is the definition of the word hysteria?
2. Based on the text above what do you think is the part of speech of the word hysteria?
3. Based on the text above what do you think is the root word and/or affixes of the word hysteria?

Now, using a dictionary, copy the definition, part of speech, and word parts of the word.

1. Definition:
2. Part of speech:
3. Word parts:

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**Epilepsy:**

“Berenice” (1835) by Edgar Allan Poe

*“Among the numerous train of maladies, superinduced by that fatal and primary one which effected a revolution of so horrible a kind in the moral and physical being of my cousin, may be mentioned as the most distressing and obstinate in its nature, a species of **epilepsy** not unfrequently terminating in trance itself...”*

Read through the text above to infer the definition, part of speech (noun, adjective, verb, adverb) and word parts (prefix, root, suffix).

1. Based on the text above what do you think is the definition of the word epilepsy?
2. Based on the text above what do you think is the part of speech of the word epilepsy?
3. Based on the text above what do you think is the root word and/or affixes of the word epilepsy?

Now, using a dictionary, copy the definition, part of speech, and word parts of the word.

1. Definition:
2. Part of speech:
3. Word parts:

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**Normality:**

“Eureka” (1848) by Edgar Allan Poe

*“The absolute, irrelative particle primarily created by the Volition of God, must have been in a condition of positive **normality**, or rightfulness -- for wrongfulness implies relation.”*

Read through the text above to infer the definition, part of speech (noun, adjective, verb, adverb) and word parts (prefix, root, suffix).

1. Based on the text above what do you think is the definition of the word normality?
2. Based on the text above what do you think is the part of speech of the word normality?
3. Based on the text above what do you think is the root word and/or affixes of the word normality?

Now, using a dictionary, copy the definition, part of speech, and word parts of the word.

1. Definition:
2. Part of speech:
3. Word parts:

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**Odorless:**

“The Unparalleled Adventure of One Hans Pfaall” (1835) by Edgar Allan Poe

*“It was tasteless, but not **odorless**.”*

Read through the text above to infer the definition, part of speech (noun, adjective, verb, adverb) and word parts (prefix, root, suffix).

1. Based on the text above what do you think is the definition of the word odorless?
2. Based on the text above what do you think is the part of speech of the word odorless?
3. Based on the text above what do you think is the root word and/or affixes of the word odorless?

Now, using a dictionary, copy the definition, part of speech, and word parts of the word.

1. Definition:
2. Part of speech:
3. Word parts: