The Raven: An Analysis

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The Raven by Edgar Allan Poe was written as a narrative, it does not feature intentional allegory or exposition. Poe explores themes of remembrance, fear of the unknown, madness, and fear of forgetting memories that the narrator holds close to him. The poem details a confliction in the narrator, a perverse conflict, wanting to forget the loss of his love Lenore, but yet finding a sort of pleasure in focusing on his feeling of loss. The narrator’s interactions with the Raven seem to be a stark example of this, as even after figuring that the Raven saying Nevermore was “his only stock in store,” the narrator still asks questions, even when he knows the answer. Even when he knows what the Raven will say, The narrator still seeks the perverse pleasure he gets from the loss of his lost love, Lenore. The narrator’s persistent questions are purposefully self-deprecating, and further incite his profound feeling of loss. The Raven details a descent into madness, as perversity and pleasure plunges the Narrator into a deep frenzy.