

Annabel Lee

Edgar Allan Poe

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;
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—
I and my Annabel Lee—
With a love that the wingèd seraphs of Heaven
Coveted her and me.

And this was the reason that, long ago,
In this kingdom by the sea,
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
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)
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—
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
Of the beautiful Annabel Lee;
And the stars never rise, but I feel 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,
In her sepulchre there by the sea—
In her tomb by the sounding sea.

Review and Assess

Thinking About the Selection

- 1. Respond:** Do you think this poem would make a good song? Why or why not?
- 2. (a) Recall:** At what stage in life did the speaker in the poem fall in love? **(b) Interpret:** In your own words, describe the love between the speaker and Annabel Lee. **(c) Support:** What words and images in the poem support your description?
- 3. (a) Recall:** Tell three ways in which Poe makes the setting of the poem seem distant, as if in a fairy tale. **(b) Speculate:** What was Poe's purpose in making the poem seem distant? **(c) Compare and Contrast:** What parts of the poem seem realistic?
- 4. (a) Recall:** How do the angels feel about the love between the speaker and Annabel Lee? **(b) Infer:** What caused the death of Annabel Lee?
- 5. (a) Recall:** How does the speaker react to Annabel Lee's death? **(b) Infer:** Why will nothing be able to separate the speaker's soul from the soul of Annabel Lee? **(c) Analyze:** How does the last stanza make the sense of sadness in the poem seem immediate and never-ending?

Post-Reading Log

Click the gray button above to record your responses in the Post-Reading Log.