

## Questions:

1. What is the summary of this literary piece?
2. What lesson does the author want to convey?
3. What is the relationship of this story to the current time?

## Answers:

### 1. Summary

"The Tell-Tale Heart" is a short story by Edgar Allan Poe, published in 1843. The story is told from the perspective of an unnamed narrator who is trying to convince the reader that he is not insane, despite having committed a heinous crime. The narrator, who is obsessed with the "pale blue eye" of an old man with whom he lives, decides to kill him in order to rid himself of the eye's presence. After dismembering the body and hiding it beneath the floorboards, the narrator is driven to confess his crime by the sound of the old man's beating heart, which he can still hear even after death.

The story explores the theme of the human psyche and the nature of guilt. The narrator's obsession with the old man's eye and his subsequent guilt over the murder demonstrate the destructive power of the human mind. The story also explores the idea that one's perception of reality is subjective and can be distorted by one's emotions and mental state.

Overall, "The Tell-Tale Heart" is a classic work of Gothic fiction and a chilling exploration of the darker aspects of the human mind.

## **2. Lesson**

"The Tell-Tale Heart" by Edgar Allan Poe is a classic horror story that explores the darker side of human nature. The story revolves around an unnamed narrator who becomes obsessed with the idea that his elderly roommate's "vulture" eye is evil and needs to be destroyed. In order to accomplish this, the narrator plans and executes the murder of the old man, but his guilt eventually drives him to confess.

The story's main lesson is that guilt can consume a person and lead to their downfall. The narrator's intense guilt over his crime eventually drives him to madness, and he ends up confessing to the police. The story also explores the theme of obsession, as the narrator's fixation on the old man's eye becomes all-consuming and leads him to commit murder.

Another possible lesson is that appearances can be deceiving. The narrator perceives the old man's eye as evil simply because of its appearance, but in reality, it has no inherent malevolence. This speaks to the idea that our perceptions can be flawed and that we should be careful not to judge others based solely on appearances.

Overall, "The Tell-Tale Heart" serves as a cautionary tale about the dangers of obsession and guilt, and the importance of self-awareness and empathy in avoiding such pitfalls.

## **3. Relationship of this story to the current time**

"The Tell-Tale Heart" by Edgar Allan Poe is a timeless classic that remains relevant today due to its exploration of the human

psyche and the themes of guilt, obsession, and the consequences of actions. The story's emphasis on the effects of psychological torment and the guilt that follows can be related to many present-day issues, such as mental health and its stigmatization, criminal psychology, and the importance of acknowledging and addressing guilt and its effects on one's well-being.

The story's depiction of a narrator who is both a victim and a perpetrator of his own actions can be seen as an allegory for the human condition, highlighting how we can be our own worst enemies. This theme can resonate with readers today who may struggle with issues such as self-doubt, self-sabotage, and the struggle to overcome our own inner demons.

Furthermore, the story's emphasis on the consequences of one's actions serves as a reminder of the importance of accountability and taking responsibility for one's behavior. The narrator's inability to face his own guilt and the way it ultimately leads to his downfall can be seen as a cautionary tale for those who may be tempted to act without considering the consequences of their actions.

Overall, "The Tell-Tale Heart" remains a timeless classic because of its exploration of universal themes that are still relevant today, and its ability to captivate and intrigue readers with its suspenseful and haunting narrative.