AMERICAN HORROR TEST

Exercise 1 - Complete the text

Instructions: Complete the text with the words from the box. Use each word only once.

obsession (a)	violent (b)	drinking (c)	favourite (d)	murder (e)
evidence (f)	portrait (g)	painter (h)	beautiful (i)	weaker (j)
guilt (k)	floorboards (l)	beating (m)	hypnosis (n)	scientist (o)
experiment (p)	death (q)	prisoner (r)	dungeon (s)	pendulum (t)
torture (u)	escape (v)	fear (w)	madness (x)	craziness (y)

American Horror is a collection of five short stories written by the famous American writer Edgar Allan Poe. His stories are full of mystery, (1) _____, violence and strange events. The characters often experience terrible situations because of their fears, (2) _____ or guilty consciences.

In The Black Cat, the main character is a man who loves animals, especially his black cat, Pluto. However, his personality changes because of his (3) _____ problems. He becomes aggressive and (4) _____ towards his wife and animals. Pluto is his (5) _____ pet, but one day he does something terrible to it. Later, he gets another black cat, but strange things begin to happen. Finally, he commits a terrible (6) _____ against his wife and tries to hide the (7) _____. However, the police discover his secret in a very unexpected way.

In The Oval Portrait, a young woman is married to a (8) _____ who is completely obsessed with his work. He decides to paint a (9) _____ of his wife because he thinks she is incredibly (10) _____. The woman loves her husband and agrees to sit for him, even though she becomes (11) _____ and weaker. The painter spends so much time concentrating on his painting that he does not notice what is happening to his wife. When he finally finishes the painting, he discovers a terrible truth. His (12) _____ with art has had tragic consequences.

In The Tell-Tale Heart, a young man lives with an old man. He does not hate him, but he cannot stand one of his eyes, which he describes as strange and frightening. He becomes obsessed with it and decides to kill him. After committing the crime, he hides the body under the (13) _____. When the police arrive, he tries to act normally. However, he starts hearing a strange (14) _____ sound. His fear and (15) _____ become so strong that he finally confesses his crime.

In The Facts in the Case of M. Valdemar, a (16) _____ is interested in (17) _____ and wants to discover what happens to people between life and (18) _____. He carries out an experiment on a dying man called Mr Valdemar. Through hypnosis, he manages to keep the man in a strange state between being alive and dead. The (19) _____ seems successful at first, but the results become increasingly terrifying. The story explores the limits of science and the mystery of death.

Finally, in The Pit and the Pendulum, a (20) _____ is imprisoned during the Spanish Inquisition. He wakes up in a dark and frightening (21) _____ without knowing what will happen to him. He discovers a deep pit in the middle of the room and later faces a terrible (22) _____ device: a sharp (23) _____ slowly moving towards him. He must use his intelligence and courage to find a way to (24) _____. His survival seems almost impossible.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

All five stories have something in common: they explore the darkest parts of the human mind. Poe shows how (25) _____ can control people's behaviour and lead them to terrible situations. His stories are frightening because they make readers question the difference between reality and imagination.

Exercise 2 - Match the characters with the stories

Instructions: Match each character (1–10) with the correct story (A–E). Some stories have more than one character.

Characters

1. _____ Pluto
2. _____ The painter
3. _____ The old man with the strange eye
4. _____ Mr Valdemar
5. _____ The prisoner
6. _____ The painter's wife
7. _____ The narrator of the story who kills his wife
8. _____ The scientist who experiments with hypnosis
9. _____ The narrator who hears a strange beating sound
10. _____ The narrator who is tortured by the Inquisition

Stories

LETTER	STORY
A	The Black Cat
B	The Oval Portrait
C	The Tell-Tale Heart
D	The Facts in the Case of M. Valdemar
E	The Pit and the Pendulum

Exercise 3 - Match the quotations with the stories

Instructions: Read the quotations from the book and match each one with the correct story. Write the corresponding letter next to each sentence.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

The stories

LETTER	STORY
A	The Black Cat
B	The Oval Portrait
C	The Tell-Tale Heart
D	The Facts in the Case of M. Valdemar
E	The Pit and the Pendulum

The quotations

1. _____ "I think it was his eye!"
2. _____ "It was an image of Father Time."
3. _____ "I have studied Mesmerism for about three years."
4. _____ "With tears in my eyes and sadness in my heart I put a noose around his neck and hanged him from a tree."
5. _____ "She was very humble and obedient, and she agreed to pose."
6. _____ "It was also clear that the bottom part of this steel was as sharp as a razor."
7. _____ "Yes; still asleep – dying."
8. _____ "I told them that I had screamed because of a bad dream."
9. _____ "The expression on her face was almost perfectly lifelike."
10. _____ "The empty eye socket was frightening."
11. _____ "I felt that I must scream or die!"
12. _____ "There was now a mass of rotten liquid."
13. _____ "He was a wild moody man, and he was often lost in his own private dream world."
14. _____ "For a whole hour I did not move a muscle and I did not hear him lie down again. He was listening."
15. _____ "But this indistinct white area gradually became distinct."
16. _____ "I knew what his general ideas about scientific research were."
17. _____ "This is indeed Life itself!"
18. _____ "One long, loud, and continuous scream, completely inhuman that came directly from hell!"
19. _____ "...but my lips and the top part of my head were lower than my chin and touched nothing."
20. _____ "Words cannot describe my disgust, but I remained still while they ate the belt."

LIVEWORKSHEETS