"The Tell-Tale Heart" by Edgar Allan Poe **TEST**

Name_____

Date_____ Class Period_____

Multiple Choice

1. _____ Which of the narrator's senses does he say is most acute?
   a. sight b. hearing c. touch d. smell

2. _____ Why does the narrator want to kill the old man?
   a. the old man had hurt him
   b. the narrator wants his gold
   c. the old man's eye vexed him
   d. the narrator hated the old man

3. _____ Which of the following statements about the narrator is true?
   a. the narrator's insanity makes him a reliable narrator
   b. the narrator's insanity makes him an unreliable narrator
   c. the narrator's impersonal style makes him an objective narrator
   d. the narrator's use of the word "you" makes him a second-person narrator

4. _____ What figurative language device is used in the following line?
   "I undid it just so much that a single thin ray fell upon the vulture eye."
   a. simile b. metaphor c. onomatopoeia d. idiom

5. _____ What do we learn about the narrator from the following line?
   "I knew what the old man felt, and pitied him, although I chuckled at heart."
   a. he is cruel b. he is compassionate c. he is honest d. he is calm

6. _____ Why does the old man sit up in bed and say, *"It is nothing but the wind in the chimney --it is only a mouse crossing the floor," or "It is merely a cricket which has made a single chirp."* ?
   a. he can't get back to sleep due to the noise
   b. he is trying to comfort the narrator
   c. he is trying to figure out the sounds
   d. he is trying to calm his own fears

7. _____ What makes the eighth night different from the previous seven nights?
   a. the narrator is clumsy and makes a noise
   b. the old man hears the narrator chuckle
   c. the old man is awake
   d. all of the above

8. _____ What figurative language device is used in the following line?
   "...because Death, in approaching him had stalked with his black shadow before him, and enveloped the victim."
   a. simile b. metaphor c. personification d. idiom

9. _____ What sound on the eighth night causes the narrator to feel anxiety?
   a. a groan b. a chuckle c. a heartbeat d. a shriek

10. _____ What worries the narrator the most about the sound he hears on the eighth night?
    a. a neighbor will hear it
    b. someone was watching him
    c. it was made by a ghost
    d. the police were there

11. _____ How does the narrator murder the old man?
    a. he stabs the old man in the heart
    b. he poison's the old man's dinner
    c. he sets the mattress on fire
    d. he suffocates the old man

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12. _____ Where does the narrator hide the old man's corpse?
a. in the basement b. in the flooring c. in the closet d. under the bed

13. _____ What do we learn about the narrator when he asks the police officers to sit and rest in the same room where he's hidden the body?
a. he's careless b. he's confident c. he's rude d. he's insane

14. _____ What does the narrator do when he hears the anxiety-provoking sound as he's talking to the police?
a. he pretends not to hear anything
b. he rushes the officers out of the room
c. he talks loudly and paces the floor heavily
d. he asks the officers if they hear it, too

15. _____ Why does the narrator think the police officers don't hear the noise?
a. he thinks they're mocking him by pretending not to hear it
b. he thinks they are old and hard-of-hearing
c. he thinks they are too scared to say anything about the noise
d. he thinks that they're too far away to hear it

Short Response
Answer the following questions using complete sentences. Cite specific details from the story to support your responses.

16. Cite two specific incidents from the story in which your interpretation of the event and the narrator's interpretation of the event are different. Explain how the narrator views each event and how you view each event.

17. Why is the conclusion of the story ironic?

18. Poe frequently uses repetition in his writing for emphasis or effect. For example, the narrator repeating himself by saying, "...why will you say that I am mad?" emphasizes that he *is* mad. Poe repeats a line from earlier in the story during the climax. Paraphrase the repeated line, and comment on the effect that the line produces on the reader.

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Vocabulary
Fill in the blanks in the following sentences using the appropriate words from the word bank. You will use all but one of the words. Be sure to spell the words correctly since they are given to you.

acute	crevice	enveloped	mortal
reposed	supposition	vexed	waned

19. I hated to admit it, but my sister's _____ that I had gone into her room was very convincing, even though it was untrue.

20. Danny's car keys fell into the small _____ between the seat and armrest.

21. Once Mom's headache had _____ a little bit, we could finally go to dinner.

22. Whenever something surprises Julia's grandmother, her grandmother says, " Dear Lord, save my _____ soul!"

23. My favorite part of the zoo was watching the giant sloth as it _____ lazily on the tree limb.

24. Joey really enjoyed summer camp, but the one thing that _____ him was the constant onslaught of biting mosquitoes.

25. The thick, dense fog _____ the car and made it impossible to see the road.

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