

# 4ACR: How to Write a Parody

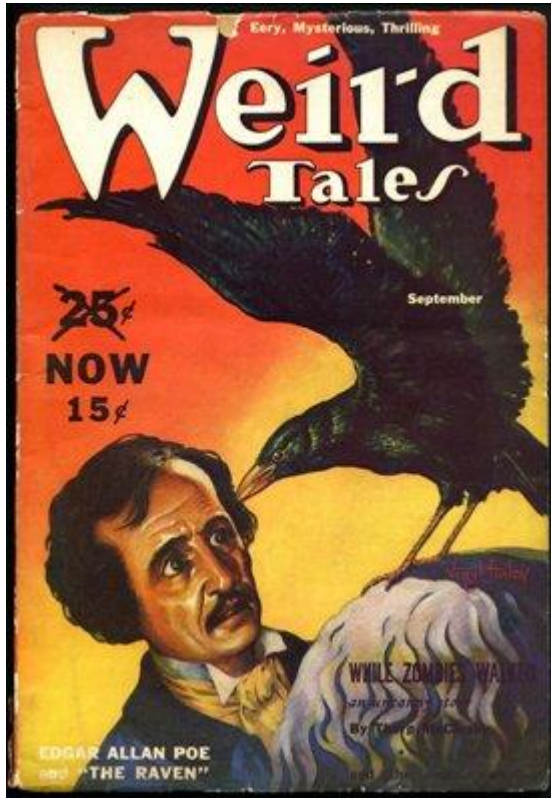




## Our Mission:

K<sup>12</sup> / Aventa Learning Instructional Services Team provides students the opportunity to become academically successful by providing rigorous curricula and instruction in a technology-enabled environment with its School Partners.

# The Poe Project



- Part 3 of the Poe Project asks that you write a poem that parodies Poe's mood and tone of "Annabel Lee" or "The Raven."
- Don't know how to do that?
- Follow the steps on the following slides...



# What is a Parody?

An imitation of the style of a writer or artist for comic effect or ridicule.

- Ever watched “Saturday Night Live”?
- Heard of the movies *Scary Movie*, *Airplane*, *Blazing Saddles*, *Robin Hood: Men in Tights*, *Shaun of the Dead*, *Not Another Teen Movie*?
- Seen Weird Al Yankovic’s videos?
  - Parody of Michael Jackson’s “Beat It”
  - Parody of Lady Gaga’s “Born This Way”

# Step 1

- Decide which poem you would like to parody:
  - “Annabel Lee”
  - “The Raven”
- Tip:** Decide if you want to write about love or supernatural things.





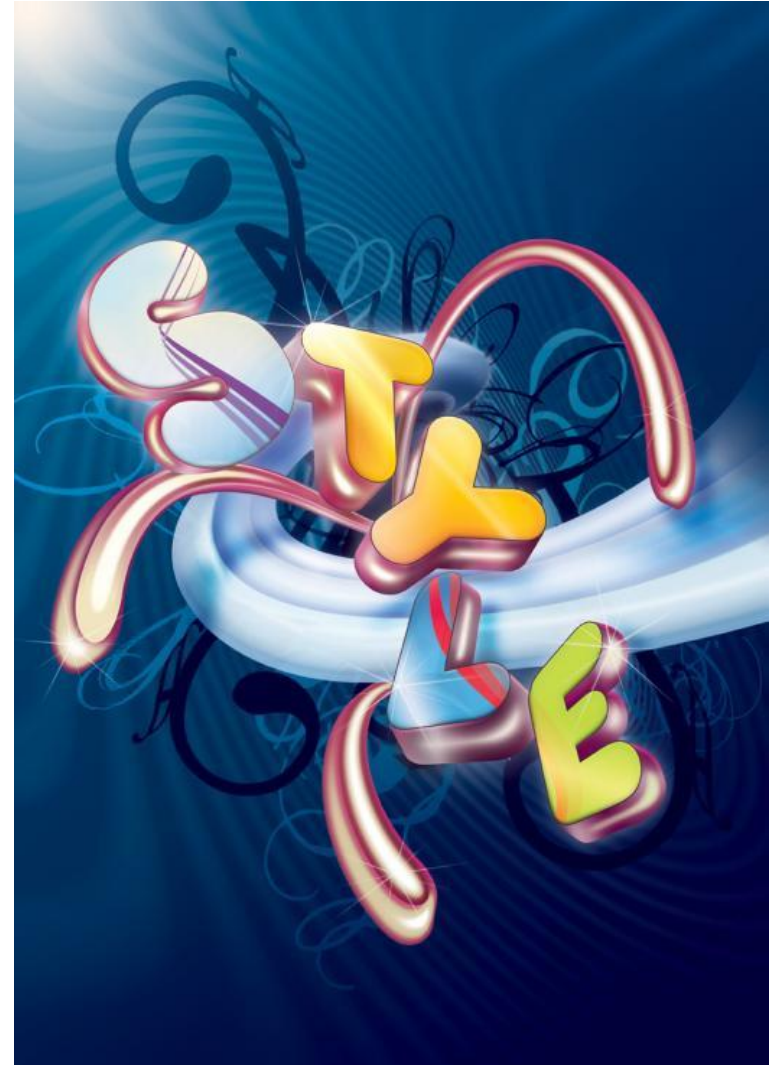
## Step 2

- Brainstorm!!
  - Rename the main characters
  - Decide on the new “story” of your parody.
  - If you’re going for humor, be creative!
  - If you want to maintain the same tone as Poe, perfect!



# Step 3

- Pay attention to the style of Poe's poem:
  - **Rhyme scheme** = the patterns of rhyme
  - **Meter** = the patterns in the lines (how the lines sound)
  - **Mood** = the atmosphere of the literary work
  - **Tone** = the attitude of the author toward the subject





## Step 4



- Start writing!
- Don't be scared!
- Incorporate your new subject and characters while using the same meter, rhyme, rhythm, and language of Poe's original poem.
- Your final poem should be at least 15-20 lines.





## Step 5

- Read your parody poem out loud.
- Does it remind you of Poe's original poem?
- If you're trying to be funny, does it make you laugh or smile?  
If not, revise it!
- If you're trying to maintain the same tone and mood as Poe's poem, were you successful?
- Remember that this is just the **FIRST** part of the Poe Project.
- Save it, work on the other parts, then submit all four parts to the appropriate assignment submission link.



# An Example

QUOTE THE RAVEN from <http://spiffyentertainment.8m.com/221.html>

**We all know what Edgar Allen Poe thought of the Raven.....but what really happened that midnight eerie? Only his cat knew the truth...**

On a night quite unenchanted, when the rain was downward slanting,  
I awakened to the ranting of the man I catch mice for.

Tipsy and a bit unshaven, in a tone I found quite craven,  
Poe was talking to a Raven perched above the chamber door.

"Raven's very tasty," thought I, as I tiptoed o'er the floor,  
"There is nothing I like more"

Soft upon the rug I treaded, calm and careful as I headed  
Towards his roost atop that dreaded bust of Pallas I deplore.  
While the bard and birdie chattered, I made sure that nothing clattered,  
Creaked, or snapped, or fell, or shattered, as I crossed the corridor  
For his house is crammed with trinkets, curios and wierd decor -  
Bric-a-brac and junk galore.



## An Example, cont.

Still the Raven never fluttered, standing stock-still as he uttered,  
In a voice that shrieked and sputtered, his two cents' worth -  
"Nevermore."

While this dirge the birdbrain kept up, oh, so silently I crept up,  
Then I crouched and quickly lept up, pouncing on the feathered bore.  
Soon he was a heap of plumage, and a little blood and gore -  
Only this and not much more.

"Oooo!" my pickled poet cried out, "Pussycat, it's time I dried out!  
Never sat I in my hideout talking to a bird before  
How I've wallowed in self-pity, while my gallant, valiant kitty  
Put and end to that damned ditty" - then I heard him start to snore.  
Back atop the door I clambered, eyed that statue I abhor,  
Jumped - and smashed it on the floor.



## Questions?

- Just ask me...that's what I'm here for!
  - Click on the "Messages" button to send me a message.
  - Even email me!
- Use the "Resources" button...you'll find lots of helpful tips for this and other assignments.
- Read the old announcements (click "View All" to see them).
- And remember, don't settle for less than your best! 😊