Writing: “The Tell-Tale Heart”

1. Write a poem (at least 20 lines) portraying the scene/setting of “The Tell-Tale Heart.” Imitate Poe’s style being sure to use words and phrases that create a mood of horror. You may consult your journal entry where you described an atmosphere of horror. Consult Poe’s use of words as he builds an atmosphere of terror in the story. In addition you may create a picture that depicts the scene you have described.

2. Write a script for a conversation between neighbors who reside near the house where “The Tell-Tale Heart” took place. Based on this story, what might they think about the narrator? You may include your version of photographs they took from their homes.

3. Write a school yearbook personality profile of the narrator. What type of person was he? What did his classmates think about him and his potential for the future? In what activities (if any) did he participate? You may include your version of a yearbook photograph as well if you like.

4. Write an article for a tabloid magazine, e.g., National Enquirer, about the narrator and the unusual events mentioned in the story. How would this type of media portray his character? What information would be emphasized? You may include your version of photographs that would accompany the article.

5. Imagine you are one of the police officers in “The Tell-Tale Heart.” You have just witnessed the narrator’s nervous behavior and heard his startling admission of guilt. As the arresting officer, you must write an official account of the circumstances leading to his arrest. How would you explain the narrator’s strange behavior? What besides his confession proves his guilt? You may include your version of photographs taken at the scene of the crime.

Evaluation: “A Tell-Tale Heart”

Excellent
- Your writing/presentation demonstrates a thorough understanding of the elements of the story through sophisticated ideas, insights, and extensions of text.

Satisfactory
- Your writing/presentation demonstrates an adequate understanding of the elements of the story through some elaboration and connection to the text. There may be errors in text-based facts.
Acceptable

- Your writing/presentation demonstrates a limited understanding of the elements of the story through some elaboration and connection to the text. There may be errors in text-based facts. Connection and/or comprehension may be incomplete or irrelevant.

Unacceptable

- Your writing/presentation demonstrates an attempt to respond with very limited evidence of an understanding of the elements of the story. There may be errors in text-based facts.
- Or, your written response is off-task (unrelated to the assignment).
- Or, you have not submitted a response to the assignment.