



Annabel Lee

Edgar Allan Poe
(1849)

This poem evokes Poe's feelings for his cousin Virginia Clemm, died two years before, whom he married when she was only thirteen.

- It was many and many a year ago,
 In a kingdom by the sea
 That a maiden¹ there lived whom you may know
 By the name of Annabel Lee;
 5 And this maiden she lived with no other thought
 Than to love and be loved by me.
- I was a child and *she* was a child,
 In this kingdom by the sea,
 But we loved with a love that was more than love –
 10 I and my Annabel Lee –
 With a love that the winged seraphs of heaven
 Coveted² her and me.
- And this was the reason that, long ago,
 In this kingdom by the sea,
 15 A wind blew out of a cloud, chilling³
 My beautiful Annabel Lee;
 So that her high-born kinsmen⁴ came
 And bore her away from me,
 To shut her up in a sepulchre,
 20 In this kingdom by the sea.
- The angels, not half so happy in Heaven,
 Went envying her and me –
 Yes! – that was the reason (as all men know,
 In this kingdom by the sea)
 25 That the wind came out of the cloud by night,
 Chilling and killing my Annabel Lee.
- But our love it was stronger by far than the love
 Of those who were older than we –
 Of many far wiser than we –
 30 And neither the angels in Heaven above,
 Nor the demons down under the sea,
 Can ever dissever⁵ my soul from the soul
 Of the beautiful Annabel Lee;
- For the moon never beams⁶, without bringing me dreams
 35 Of the beautiful Annabel Lee;
 And the stars never rise, but I feel the bright eyes
 Of the beautiful Annabel Lee;
 And so, all the night-tide⁷, I lie down by the side
 Of my darling – my darling – my life and my bride,
 40 In the sepulchre there by the sea –
 In her tomb by the sounding sea.

- 1 maiden. Fanciulla.
 2 Coveted. Invidiavano.
 3 chilling. Gelando (fino a farla morire).
 4 high-born kinsmen. Parenti altolocati.
 5 dissever. Separare.
 6 beams. Splende.
 7 all the night-tide. Lett.: durante la marea notturna.

**VISUAL ANALYSIS****1 READ** the poem and write a heading to each stanza.

Stanza 1:

Stanza 2:

Stanza 3:

Stanza 4:

Stanza 5:

Stanza 6:

2 LOOK at the visual analysis of the text and write down what each highlight and colour represents.







the winged

moon

3 ANSWER the following questions in pairs.

- 1 How would you define the style of the beginning of the poem? What kind of mood does it create in the reader?
- 2 Focus on the sibilant sounds in the last stanza. What do they suggest?
- 3 The poem contains some themes that are typical of Poe's works. Identify them and write them down.

4 COMPLETE the summary with the words from the box.

dreams	envious	relatives	stronger	wind
happiness	souls	tomb	kingdom	maiden



In the first two stanzas the poet introduces an ennobled **(1)** called Annabel Lee, who lived in a **(2)** by the sea and whom he loved. The angels in Heaven were **(3)** of their pure love. So one night a chilling **(4)** killed Annabel Lee and she was buried by her **(5)** in a tomb in the kingdom by the sea.

The fourth stanza repeats the accusation against the angels, the idea that Annabel was killed because of envy for their **(6)**

In the fifth stanza the poet claims that their childhood love is **(7)** than the love of older and wiser people. He adds that neither angels nor demons can separate their **(8)**

In the last stanza, the speaker remembers **(9)** and images of Annabel Lee. He says that he lies by the side of Annabel Lee all night long – beside her in her **(10)** in the kingdom by the sea.