



Name: _____

“The Black Cat” by Edgar Allan Poe

Comprehension: Answer each question in complete sentences. Remember to rephrase the question in your answer.

1. The narrator moves from speaking in present tense in paragraph #1 to past tense for the remainder of the tale. Where do you think the speaker may be in the opening paragraph? With whom is he talking? What does he imply will be happening to him on the following day?
2. How does the narrator explain his early behavior and disposition towards animals and others in the beginning of his story? Provide at least two examples that help the reader to understand how the narrator behaved early on.
3. What reason does the narrator give for his drastic change in disposition and temperament towards his wife and pets? Explain the way in which the narrator tortures and kills his cat Pluto.
4. What occurs on the evening of the day that the narrator kills Pluto?
5. How does the narrator try to explain the plastered image of a gigantic cat with a rope around its neck that mysteriously appears on the bedroom wall?
6. Where does the narrator first see the second cat that resembles his former cat Pluto? How does this new cat react to the narrator?
7. Why does the narrator begin to hate and avoid the second cat? What specific mark (image) in the animal's small section of white fur had become clearly visible to the narrator?
8. Why does the narrator kill his innocent wife? How does he attempt to hide his crime?
9. What does the narrator believe has happened to the second black cat when he does not see the animal for several days?
10. How is the narrator's crime finally revealed? How is he caught by the police?