



## WHAT'S THE Story? THE WISHBONE-ESQUE BOOK CLUB YOU NEVER KNEW YOU WANTED

### Edgar Allan Poe

Edgar Allan Poe has an interesting legacy. His personal life was complicated to say the least, from his orphaned childhood to his mysterious death. He was rumored to be a madman by his contemporaries, and macabre writings have cast him as a dark figure in pop culture. Still, the man had more influence on literature than many realize. Poe was a prolific writer of novels, short stories, and poetry. His tales have been incredibly influential on genres like horror and mystery, to the point where he is usually credited with writing the first detective novel (move over Sherlock Holmes) and being one of the first authors to publish short stories.

Poe's influence is undeniable across pop culture. His most famous works, like the Tell Tale Heart, The Masque of the Red Death, and The Cask of Amontillado are often referenced and featured in films, and literature. Poe's The Fall of the House of Usher has inspired several book retellings including Bethany Griffin's The Fall and Chris Priestley's The Dead of Winter. Even the inaugural Treehouse of Horror special on The Simpsons took inspiration from Poe, recreating the entirety of his famous poem The Raven as a dramatic sequence starring Homer and Bart. For many millennials, that Simpsons gag was their first introduction to Poe and his works.

Poe has another unique impact on storytelling, and that is as a character. His mysterious persona has led many other creators to cast him in their own works of fiction. For every retelling of one of Poe's works, you can find another that casts him in the leading role. Most of these stories go beyond a conventional biography, ditching the facts of Poe's life to instead cast him in mysteries, science fiction tales, and even romances. This blending of fact and fantasy about Poe's life isn't unique to him, but it is a genre of storytelling that is often reserved for the most famous, or sometimes infamous, figures in history.

### What is a Retelling?

Whenever an existing story inspires a movie, book, television show, video game, or play, it goes through a process called adaptation. Retellings adapt stories by changing elements to fit a new context. For example, a retelling may change its source material to fit a new type of medium, a different genre, or a new era. Despite changes, retellings inherently carry story elements from the source material.

Retellings and adaptations have been around as long as stories have been told. Many classic myths and fables had hundreds of versions before being put into print. Retellings are part of our collective history, existing in every culture, medium, and time period.

The What's The Story Book Club seeks to understand how classic stories influence our past and continue to expand how we think, feel, and experience the world through adaptations and retellings.

Each month we choose a well-known myth, fairy tale, or piece of literature. We discuss the original, or best-known versions of the story. Then you choose a retelling that you wish to experience. Your choice can be any genre or medium, as long as the story relates to that month's source material.

As you read or watch your retelling, take note of what elements you recognize from the original story, what elements are changed, and anything you find interesting about the adaptation. We will discuss each version that our group chose when we meet again.



## Adult Fiction

The Blackest Bird by Joel Bird  
The Tell-Tale Tarte by Maya Corrigan  
Mrs. Poe by Lynn Cullen  
Supernatural: nevermore by Keith DeCandido  
Prose and Cons by Amanda Flower  
The Widow of Pale Harbor by Hester Fox  
What Moves the Dead by T. Kingfisher  
How to Book a Murder by Cynthia Kuhn  
The Port Wine Stain by Norman Lock  
The Black Cat by Robert Poe  
The Odditorium by Melissa Pritchard  
Tuesday Mooney Talks to Ghosts by Kate Racculia  
Ghost Story by Peter Straub  
Poe and Dupin Mystery (series) by Karen Street  
An Unpardonable Crime by Andrew Taylor

## Other Media

Cask of Amontillado by Joeming W. Dunn (graphic Hoopla)  
The Raven by Joeming W. Dunn (graphic Hoopla)  
The Tell-Tale Heart by Benjamin Harper (ecomic Hoopla)  
The Stories of Edgar Allan Poe by Stacey King (teen graphic)  
The Fall of the House of Usher by Matthew Manning (ecomic Hoopla)  
Poe. Issue 1-4 by J. Barton Mitchell (ecomic Hoopla)  
Poems to see by: a comic artist interprets great poetry by Julian Peters (graphic novel)  
The Pit and the Pendulum by Sean Tilien (graphic Hoopla)  
Edgar Allan Poe's snifter of terror. Volume one (teen graphic)

## TV/ Movies

The Masque of the Red Death (1964)  
Tell-Tale (2010) (Hoopla)  
Treehouse of Terror (The Simpsons season 2)

## eMaterial on Libby or Hoopla

Pale Blue Eye by Louis Bayard  
Servants of the Storm by Delilah Dawson  
The Raven and the Nightingale by Joanne Dobson  
Lenore by Frank Lovelock  
Poe Must Die by Marc Olden  
The Poe Shadow by Matthew Pearl  
On Night's Shore by Randall Silbis  
Of Monsters and Madness by Jessica Verday  
The Raven by Elise Wallace

## YA Novels

Nevermore (Series) by Kelly Creagh  
Masque of the Red Death by Bethany Griffin  
The Initial Insult by Mindy McGinnis  
The Steampunk Poe by Edgar Allan Poe  
His Hideous Heart by Various  
The Raven's Tale by Cat Winters

## Children's Fiction

The Tales of a Watch-Cat (series) by Marie Beal (Hoopla)  
Perking Up Poe by Brian Eltz (Hoopla)  
Eddie: The Lost Youth of Edgar Allan Poe by Scott Gustafson  
Room of Shadows by Ronald Kidd (Hoopla)  
The Raven: a modern retelling by Saskia Lacey (Hoopla)  
Misadventures of Edgar Allan Poe (series) by Gordon McAlpine  
Edgar, Allan, and Poe and the Tell-Tale Beets by Natalie Rompella  
The Poe Estate by Polly Shulman

## Awesome things that Phoenix Public Library doesn't own

Masters of Horror: The Black Cat (Tubi)  
Ashes on the Waves by Mary Lindsay  
Nevermore (webcomic Webtoon)

