

The Raven & The Fall Of The House of Usher

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Edgar Allen Poe has written a myriad of novels, poems, and short stories. Two of his most recognizable works are The Fall of The House of Usher and Raven. Though these two writings are similar in many ways, they are also very different. One way this can be seen is through the writing style and theme. Another way they can be compared is the actual type of writing used in each. Lastly, they can be compared in the use of symbolism in each.

One way that they can be compared is by the type of writing used in each. To start off, they both share the gothic genre. Like many other works by Poe, both The Raven and The Fall of The House of Usher are written in the gothic style. This style, often characterized by its gore, horror, and other dark subjects, is heavily present in both of the pieces of literature. For example, in The Raven, the main character adds to the gothic theme with his “unstable” mental state. This can be seen as the narrator slowly loses sanity. This happens as he asks the bird questions, gradually revealing his thoughts. In The Fall of The House Of Usher this is shown through the setting, a gloomy deteriorating house in the woods. For example, in one passage the narrator talks about how the sight of the house gives him a feeling of depression. In both the stories, Poe uses a mixture of setting, characters, and symbolism to get the gothic theme across.

Though these two stories are similar in writing style, in this case theme, they are also different. This is in the form of the literal type of writing. The Raven is presented via a poem, whereas The Fall of The House of Usher is a short story. This is shown in many ways. Firstly,

the Raven is written in stanzas. These are short approximately five line segments that are separated. The Fall of The House of Usher is written in paragraphs. Another way they are different is that The Raven uses many literary elements common to poetry. One such element is refrain, this is present with the lines following each stanza. Another element used is rhyme, which is shown in each line, such as “Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary...”. Lastly, Poe also uses alliteration, or the repetition of sound. In The Fall of The House of Usher, these tools are not used, except for in the poems recited by the narrator. This is because The Fall of The House of Usher is in a short story format.

Lastly, the final way both The Raven and The Fall of The House of Usher are similar is the use of symbolism. In The Fall of The House of Usher for example, one of the biggest uses of symbolism is the ambiguity of the house of Usher. In the story this gets two meanings. One is of the physical house where the Usher’s live. The other meaning is the “family line” of the Usher’s. In the end, both the house and family fall. In The Raven, one use of symbolism is in using the word nepenthe. In the poem, the narrator talks about nepenthe when trying to remove his pain and sorrow for Lenore. This allusion uses nepenthe as a replacement word for remove. Its actual definition is an ancient Greek drug. It is thought to of been a type of anti-depressant.

In conclusion, The Raven and The Fall of The House of Usher are similar in many ways. They are also different in many ways. For example, the two are similar since they share the gothic writing style. They are also different though, as the type of writing used for each is different, a poem for The Raven, and a short story for The Fall of The House of Usher. Lastly, they can also be compared as similar in the respect of symbolism. Both the stories contain

symbolism various times throughout the story. In general both the stories have both similarities and differences.