

**Topic: Sort story-second stage  
(Morning & evening classes)**

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## *“The black cat”*

□ After discussing the Fairy tale story of *The happy prince* ,in this presentation I'm going to explain the second short story.*The black Cat* which we have to deal with.

□ Type of work:

*The black cat is a short story in the horror genre that has gothic fiction . It focuses on the psyche of the narrator who is in prison awaiting execution*



## Introduction

- The black cat is a short story by Edgar Allen poe that was first published in the August 19, 1843, In this story , a murderer carefully conceals his crime and believes himself unassailable , but eventually breaks down and reveals himself ,impelled by a nagging reminder of his guilt .



## Theme

Theme is an element of a story that binds together various other essential elements of a narrative . Theme gives the reader better understanding of the main character's conflict , experiences , discovers, and emotions as they are derived from them.

## Symbolism

Symbolism is the use of symbols to signify ideas and qualities by giving them symbolic meanings that are different from their literal sense . Sometimes , an action, an event or a word spoken by someone may have a symbolic value . For instance , “smile” is a symbol of friendship . Similarly the action of someone smiling at you may stand as a symbol of the felling of affection which that person has for you.

## Summary

-**The narrator** starts by telling us about his childhood and how human he was . He was particularly fond of animals and had many. He married someone of similar interest , and they had many pets together . However particular mention is given to the cat they have together which was the favorite pet of the narrator . However because of alcohol, the narrator changed his sunny disposition and becomes angrier and more irritable . He ill-uses both his wife and his pets . One night , returning drunk , he seizes the cat and the cat bites his hand . In a fury the narrator cuts one eye from the cat's face . The narrator later goes on to hang the cat from the tree and kill it , because he knows he is committing a terrible sin . On that same night , the narrator's house burns to the ground reduces his circumstances greatly .

How ever , in the ruined house the narrator finds a picture of a gigantic cat on one of the walls with a rope around its neck .Although , he tries to explain this picture away , he is unsettled . One night , again drunk , he sees another cat almost identical to his former cat , but with a white patch on his breast . This cat stays with the narrator and his wife , but the narrator comes to regard this cat with fear and dread associating it with agony and death . One day the narrator and his wife go down to the cellar , the cat following the narrator become enraged and tries to kill the cat with an axe but his wife stops him .Overwhelmed by anger . He returns and kills her . He burns the wife in the cellar, bricking in her corpse.....

## Themes

### Perversity

A human being has a perverse, wicked side that can goad him into committing evil deeds .  
The narrator says it was this inner demon that brought about this downfall

### Alcohol Abuse

Heavy drinking can bring out the worst in a human being . Alcohol abuse alone did not cause the narrator's violence behavior but, ,as he readily acknowledge , it certainly put him in a foul mood.

### symbolism

The first cat pluto ....seems to symbolize death to the narrator.  
Also the second cat ....with a white fur pattern around its neck resembling the markings of  
noose

## SYMBOLISM

The first cat is a completely black cat. In European history, black cats were thought to be unlikely, some even thought that they were witches. In fact the narrator mentions that his wife said the same about the cat jokingly.

The other symbolism about the first cat is his name Pluto. In Greek mythology, Pluto was the ruler of the dead and the underworld.



## Setting

**-The story is written from the narrator's jail cell, highlighting the theme of "freedom" and "confinement" and detailing the events that led him to prison is one of the few freedoms he has left.**

## Plot

### Internal conflict

**The narrator vs Alcoholism**

### External conflict

**The narrator vs cat ( his own conscience)**

## Exposition

The narrator introduced as an alcoholic who married young and his household has many pets .

## Rising action

The narrator hanged his black cat and his house caught  
On fire . His crazy actions rage on with his intemperance .

## Climax

The narrator killed his wife after she stopped his attempt  
To get rid of the cat.

## Falling action

The narrator hide the body of his wife in the wall.

# Good Luck



**NO Pain – No Gain**