

EDGAR ALLAN POE'S ANNABEL LEE: POEM & PHONOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

Nathaniel G. Gido, EdD, PhD

College Dean, Madridejos Community College, Madridejos Cebu
maritimeresearchunit@gmail.com, +639271308707

Emelita G Postrero

Library Staff, Madridejos Community College, Madridejos Cebu
emelitapostrero@gmail.com, +639503021085

Jose Dindo N. Mansueto

SAS Coordinator, Madridejos Community College, Madridejos, Cebu
dindo_mansueto@yahoo.com
+639617806552

Princess Ericka Vargas

BSED English Student, Tagoloan Community College
Baluarte Tagoloan Misamis Oriental Philippines

ABSTRACT

Even though Annabel Lee went gone, the narrator of the poem retains a strong relationship with her and is always brought back to his dear Annabel Lee by everything he experiences. Poe uses personification to communicate the main idea of death across the entire poem. The melancholy love narrative and sonorous language of "Annabel Lee," one of Poe's best-known poems, fascinate readers. It tells the story of the relationship between two characters named Annabel Lee and the speaker, a man who could be an inspiration for the poet. Given that both an angelic and a demonic force are mentioned as wanting to keep the two lovers apart, this poem has a rhyme and rhythm that is reminiscent of fairytales. It also has a supernatural undertone.

Keywords: Poem Analysis, Textual Analysis

I. Edgar Allan Poe's Poet's Biography

Edgar Allan Poe was a prominent American short story writer, poet, critic, and editor who was born on January 19, 1809, in Boston, Massachusetts, and passed away on October 7, 1849, in Baltimore, Maryland. The contemporary detective story was first introduced in his story "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" (1841), and the mood in his horror stories is unrivaled in American literature. His poem "The Raven" (1845) is one of the most well-known in the country's literature. His classical education was continued at Richmond after he was brought to Scotland and England (1815–20). He studied for 11 months at the University of Virginia in 1826, but his guardian forbade him to finish because of his gambling losses there.

When Poe returned to Richmond, he discovered that his love, (Sarah) Elmira Royster, had gotten engaged. He moved to Boston, where in 1827 he released *Tamerlane and Other Poems*, a chapbook of early Byronic poems. West Point Military Academy Poe released a new collection

before leaving called Baltimore, Al Aaraaf, Tamerlane, and Minor Poems (1829). He was missing from all drills and classes at the academy for a week before successfully petitioning for expulsion. He travelled to New York City and produced a poetry collection, some of which displayed John Keats, Percy Bysshe Shelley, and Samuel Taylor Coleridge's influence. Then he went back to Baltimore and started penning stories there. He published "MS. Found in a Bottle" received a \$50 prize from a Baltimore weekly, he moved to Richmond to become the editor of the Southern Literary Messenger in 1835. There he established himself as a respected critic and married his 13-year-old cousin Virginia Clemm. Poe appears to have been a loving son-in-law and spouse. Poe left Richmond after being fired from his work there, reportedly for drinking too much. It turned out that drinking would be his downfall. In Philadelphia, he was appointed co-editor of Burton's Gentleman's Magazine in 1839. He was inspired to create the supernatural horror tales "William Wilson" and "The Fall of the House of Usher" there after signing a contract for a monthly feature. The latter includes a study of a neurotic who was not Poe himself but is now known to have been a friend of the author.

2. Annabel Lee: A Brief Discussion

Poe wrote the rhymed poetry "Annabel Lee" in May of 1849, the year he passed away. It describes the romance between two characters named Annabel Lee and the speaker, a masculine figure who may be based on the poet. The poem has gained popularity since its release in October 1849 and is currently regarded as one of Poe's most well-liked works of gothic romance. It has been adapted to music multiple times, with alternative indie band Sweet Sister Pain's version being one of the most recent. Since his passing, a lot has been written about Edgar Allan Poe's unconventional upbringing, shattered family, and alcoholism. He appeared to be surrounded by controversy and mystery throughout his brief and turbulent life. The solid fact of his work and romances is obscured by a lot of mystery and legend, but there are constants to be found. His love for his younger cousin Virginia Eliza Clemm, whom he married when she was just 13 years old, may have been his sole solace. He was 27. They were allegedly more like brothers and sisters than husband and wife throughout their 11-year residence together.

Always vulnerable, tragedy struck when Virginia, a young girl, eventually died in 1847 from disease, leaving Poe sad and without an emotional support system. Despite having many close female friends and fans as well as being well-known for his artistic creations, he swiftly fell into sorrow and despair and died in October 1849. Being a real romantic, like Dante with his companion Beatrice, Poe stands by Annabel Lee, maintaining the spiritual bonds and turning his youthful love into something that perhaps everyone can relate to. But is it a good idea to assume that the speaker and the poet are the same character? This poem has a fairytale-like rhyme and rhythm as well as a supernatural undertone, since it mentions both an angelic and a demonic order trying to keep the two lovers apart. Thoughts of these two souls still being together after everything they have been through give the haunted romance and true power.

3. Poem Analysis of the Poem

3.1 Phonological Level

Alliteration: The occurrence of the same letter or sound at the beginning of adjacent or closely connected words.

- The first stanza of "Annabel Lee" has the first use of alliteration. The m consonant sound appears three times in the first three lines: many, maiden, and may. In the fifth line, the term "maiden" is used once again. Lines 4-6 contain the words Lee, lived, love, and loved, all which begin with the letter l.

Consonance: The occurrence of the same letter or sound at the beginning of adjacent or closely connected words.

- The "n" sound and the "l" sound are consonant in this passage from Edgar Allen Poe's poem "Annabel Lee." Many times throughout the poem, Poe mentions his ex-girlfriend Annabel Lee (at least once in each stanza). In order to maintain harmony and rhythm throughout the poem, he also employs a lot of words with similar sounds.

"In a kingdom by the sea,"

"I and my Annabel Lee—"

Assonance: In poetry, a vowel or diphthong repeated in nonrhyming stressed syllables close enough to one another for the echo to be discernible (e.g., penitence, reticence).

- The word "eyes" has the same long "I" sound as the words "rise," "I," and "bright." Internal rhyme: The middle of the sentence contains the word ever, which rhymes with the word dissever, which is also there.

"For the moon never beams, "without bringing me dreams"

Rhyme: Sound correspondence between words or at word ends, particularly when utilized at the end of poetic lines.

- Rhyme Scheme: The entire poem follows the ABABCB rhyme pattern. For example, "For the moon never beams, without sending me dreams" has an internal rhyme. "Beams" and "dreams" are two words that rhyme.

"For the moon never beams, "without bringing me dreams"

Rhythm: A strong, regular, repeated pattern of movement or sound.

- The first line sets the poem's overall flow. There are four feet in all, with a rhythm of da-da-DUM da-da-DUM da-da-DUM da-DUM. There are three anapests and an iamb. As a result, the line scans as an anapestic tetrameter. Poe frequently employed the anapaest to give this poem a trip-off-the-tongue feel.

"It was many and many a year ago,

In a kingdom by the sea,

That a maiden there lived whom you may know

By the name of Annabel Lee;

And this maiden she lived with no other thought

Than to love and be loved by me."

Meter: The fundamental rhythmic framework of a line in a poem is called the meter. The quantity of syllables and the beat make up the meter. a pattern of emphasizing those syllables.

- When these anapests were followed by iambs (an unstressed syllable followed by a stress), the poem had a skipping feeling.

Kingdom,
Kinsmen,
Highborn

Personification: Is when inanimate objects are given human attributes. As in "the wind came out of the cloud by night,/ Chilling and killing my Annabel Lee," which implies that the wind is a person and has the power to kill another person.

Imagery: The use of imagery helps readers experience the text through all five senses. Poe uses visual imagery to let the reader picture a bleak and lonely area where he and his beloved live.

"In a kingdom by the sea" and "In her tomb by the sounding sea"

Symbolism: Symbolism is the use of symbols to represent concepts and traits by imbuing them with symbolic meanings that differ from their literal interpretations.

- The speaker's lover and her magnificent beauty are both represented by "the stars," "the moon," and "the sea," which stand for evil and darkness respectively.

Repetition: Is a rhetorical and lyrical tactic that can be used to highlight a point. Examples include the repeated phrases "Of the beautiful Annabel Lee" and "In a kingdom by the sea" in the poem.

- The phrases "In a kingdom by the sea" and "Of the beautiful Annabel Lee" are repeated with the same words, and because these phrases are repeated in each of the poem's stanzas, they have come to be recognized as refrain.

3.2 Graphological Level

Punctuation: Is the tool that enables us to organize our ideas, make them simpler to review, and facilitate sharing them.

- Period , Comma , Colon,

Poetic structure: "Annabel Lee" has six stanzas, each with a slightly different rhyme scheme. There are three stanzas with six lines, one with seven, and two with eight.

- Poe referred to it as a ballad even though it isn't one in the strictest sense.

Stanza: A stanza is a section of a poetry made up of two or more lines placed in a row. A stanza is more particularly a number of lines that are typically put together in a recurring pattern of metrical lengths and a series of rhymes.

It was many and many a year ago,

Annabel Lee

By: Edgar Allan Poe

It was many and many a year ago,

In a kingdom by the sea,

That a maiden there lived whom you may know

By the name of Annabel Lee;

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—
I and my Annabel Lee—
With a love that the wingèd seraphs of Heaven
Coveted her and me.*

*And this was the reason that, long ago,
In this kingdom by the sea,
A wind blew out of a cloud, chilling
My beautiful Annabel Lee;
So that her highborn kinsmen came
And bore her away from me,
To shut her up in a sepulchre
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)
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—
And neither the angels in Heaven above
Nor the demons down under the sea
Can ever dissever my soul from the soul
Of the beautiful Annabel Lee;*

*For the moon never beams, without bringing me dreams
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-tide, I lie down by the side
Of my darling—my darling—my life and my bride,
In her sepulchre there by the sea—
In her tomb by the sounding sea*

Lowercase: Letters are the shorter, smaller versions of letters.

“by the sea”

“blew out of coulds”

Italics: Italics are most frequently used to emphasize or contrast, or to attract attention to a certain section of a text.

"I was a child and she was a child,"

Capitalization: Refers to the use of capital letters or uppercase letters. In English, it is customary to capitalize place names, family names, and days of the week. Capitalization includes both the use of capital letters at the beginning of sentences and capitalizing every letter of a word to emphasize a point.

"My beautiful Annabel Lee;"

Contraction: A contraction is a shortened form of a word (or group of words) that omits certain letters or sounds. In most contractions, an apostrophe represents the missing letters. The most common contractions are made up of verbs, auxiliaries, or modals attached to other words: He would=He'd. I have=I've. They are=They're

3.3 Morphological level

Blending: A word blend is created by fusing two distinct words with dissimilar meanings to create a brand-new one. These terms are frequently made up to describe a new phenomena or creation that combines the characteristics of two different things.

"night- tide"

Derivation: A process through which one WORD, PHRASE, or SENTENCE is formed from another

"Highborn"

Inflection: A speech pattern in which the voice's volume, pitch, or tonality are altered. Modulation. alteration in voice volume or pitch. the transformation of a word's form to indicate differences in case, gender, number, tense, person, mood, or voice.

"But our love it was stronger by far than the love "

Lexical Level: The lexical level is made up of mental images of words and morphemes that are already known to just one; the sublexical level consists of knowledge of the rules and patterns that determine how and where letters are used in spellings.

Formal and Informal words: Formal language is less personal than informal language. It is used when writing for professional or academic purposes like graduate school assignments. Formal language does not use colloquialisms, contractions or first-person pronouns such as "I" or "We." Informal language is more casual and spontaneous.

Formal: angel

Informal: winged

3.4 Syntactic Level

Surface Structure of Stanza: A stanza's structure, also known as a strophe or stave, is based on the number of lines, the dominant meter, and the rhyme scheme. An example of a quatrain would be a stanza with four lines of iambic pentameter that rhyme with abab.

- Poe uses literary strategies that add to the musicality of the poem. Assonance is used by the poet immediately in the first line. The note /e/ is repeated numerous times in "It was many and many a year ago," forming a distinctive sound pattern (Poe 1). The phrase "but we loved with a love that was more than love" is consonant (Poe 9). The sounds /l/, //, and /v/ are echoed in this instance. Additionally, the prior sentence has another literary device. The use of the

word "love" highlights how intense the narrator's emotions are. According to Matthew Bolton, the poem's repetitions are an expression of the narrator's grief, obsession with the late heroine, and obsessive thoughts (Studniarz 117). Indeed, there seems to be a lot of repetition of various types in "Annabel Lee." For instance, the author uses epistrophe in the first two stanzas, repeating "Annabel Lee" at the end of lines a repeatedly. As a result, repetition seems to be one of the text's main literary techniques.

Simile: A figure of speech used to amplify or make a description more vivid that involves comparing one thing with another of a different kind.

*"I was a child and she was a child,"
"A wind blew out of a cloud,"*

Enjambment: Is the continuation of a sentence at the end of a line, couplet, or stanza without a pause, as in the example below:

"And this maiden she lived with no other thought; Than to love and be loved by me"

Alliteration: As in "Than to love and be loved by me" and "But we loved with a love that was more than love-," alliteration is the recurrence of consonant sounds in the same line.

CONCLUSION

Edgar Allan Poe's "Annabel Lee" is a macabre story about the narrator's beloved dying and how death cannot break apart their everlasting love. Poe conveys the primary idea of death through personification throughout the entire poem. I felt quite chilly and gloomy when Poe used words like "chilling" and "killing" to describe the wind. I was reminded of my grandfather Pete's passing by "Annabel Lee." In the poem, even though Annabel Lee passed away, the narrator still has a close bond with her and is constantly reminded of his dear Annabel Lee by everything he encounters. I still have a close relationship with my grandfather, just like the narrator, and I see things every day that make me think of Pete. I was reminded of how I used to believe that Pete would never pass away because of how important he was to me every day when the angels killed Annabel Lee because they envied the bond that the narrator and Annabel Lee shared. The narrator would visit Annabel Lee's tomb after she passed away and would lie there as though she were still alive. Like the narrator, I was so heartbroken about losing the person I loved that I refused to accept his death. You never know when the "cold and killing" wind will come and steal your loved ones, which is why "Annabel Lee" made me feel much more connected to them. This particular poem is a great illustration of Romanticism. Its fundamental themes—love, death, and grief—seem to be shared by a number of Poe's other works. The narrator's sorrow and loss are depicted, as well as the love between the poem's heroes, using a range of creative tactics by the author. One of Poe's most well-known poems, "Annabel Lee," captivates readers with a sad love story and sonorous language.

REFERENCES

1. Halperin, S., & Heath, O. (2020). 14. Textual analysis*. *Political Research*, 364-392.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/hepl/9780198820628.003.0014>
2. Richards, I. A. (2017). The analysis of a poem. *Principles of Literary Criticism*, 104-121.
<https://doi.org/10.4324/9781351223508-16>.