

The Tell-Tale Heart

Vocabulary

Dissimulation -

Cunningly -

Sagacity -

Hearkening -

Refrained -

Comprehension

1. Why does the narrator decide to kill the old man?
2. What does the narrator do for seven straight nights?
3. How does the narrator kill the old man?
4. Where does the narrator invite the officers to sit?
5. Why does the narrator confess?

Analysis

1. What do you think the narrator means when s/he refers to “the disease?” (303).
2. Do you actually “fancy [the narrator] mad?” (303).
 - **Hint:** Do you actually *trust* the narrator?
3. Why do you believe the narrator was “singularly at ease?” (303)
 - **Hint:** Define the word “singularly” before attempting to address this question.

Inference

1. The narrator says “...have I not told you that what you mistake for madness is but over-acuteness of the senses?” (305). Do you believe that the narrator’s senses are, in fact, “over-acute?” What can you **infer** about the narrator’s state of mind from this excerpt?

Madness! Madness!

How do the narrator’s actions inform your opinion of his/her madness? Cite 2-5 of the narrator’s actions, and explain why said actions make you think one way or the other about the narrator’s state of mind.

- 8-10 sentences
- 2 citations minimum