



Ted Alejandre, County Superintendent

San Bernardino County

Superintendent of Schools

Transforming lives through education

Wednesday, May 13

1:00pm

Twisted Tales of Poe: Theater of the Mind – 4th thru 8th grade

Mysterious and macabre writings of Edgar Allan Poe form the basis for "Twisted Tales of Poe," 1940's-style radio adaptations, complete with musical accompaniment and a live crew creating all of the sound effects while you watch! The performances, based on Poe's tales, are written and directed for broadcast by Philip Grecian. As has been the custom with these dramas, the actors play multiple roles and employ vintage microphones to simulate radio's Golden Age. The mysterious presence of the raven, the victim's "vulture eye," and the catacombs of Italy are created through "theatre of the mind" in the imaginations of the listening audience. It's radio you can see!

After watching this episode, choose from the following questions and/or tasks to extend your learning

Question Box 1

- Identify specific details/passages in the text that focus on the author's purpose.
- Consider the vocabulary used in the performances. Did Poe's word choice create a mood as you listened and watched the performance? If so, what kind of mood did he create for you, the reader/listener/watcher?
- What were some of the words/vocabulary that created a picture or made the story come to life?
- The actors played multiple roles. How did you keep track of the characters? Were there visual or auditory cues (i.e. costume changes, facial expressions, accents) that helped you?
- Why is this episode entitled, "Theater of the Mind"?

Question Box 2

- What more do you want to learn about this topic, and why?
- What in the program made you curious? Explain.
- How does seeing the dramas performed help your comprehension? Is it easier for you to understand what is going in the story when you can see it and hear it?
- How can you use your mind's eye to "see" a story while you listen to it to help you better understand what is happening?
- Would you be interested in being someone who acts out a story or poem on radio? Why or Why not?
- Reflect on the work of Edgar Allen Poe. Why do you think he wrote in this style?

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Box 3 (Tasks)

- Which tale was your favorite? With the help of an adult, find an electronic version of the text to read. As you read, connect the text to the dramatic version you saw in the episode? Describe how they were similar and different.
- Summarize each of the performances for a family member. Be sure to include the theme of the drama as well as the progression of the plot.
- Read a short story aloud, record it and add sound effects like was done in this episode.

Box 4 (Enrichment)

- *(ELD) Create a poster for one of the stories, use phrases from the story in your poster and other visual and symbolic representations.*
- Use this digital plot diagram tool to identify parts of the plot from one of the tales in the program. <http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/plot-diagram/>

Box 5 (Extend/Real-Life)

- How important are the sound effects, music, and tone of voice to the radio presentation of Poe's writings?
- Record yourself reading one of Poe's writings. Without sound effects, music, and in a flat tone. Listen to your recording and describe how your reading made you feel in comparison to the version with all of the additional props.
- Record a version using your own sound effects, music, and vary your vocal tone.
- Play both of your versions to a family member and discuss which version is better and why.