



Master 1 Literature

Sample correction of creative writing exam

Q1: How do the opening lines of the poem evoke a "fairy-tale" tone

This poem begins exactly like a fairy tale, telling us that the story we are about to hear happened "many a year ago" in a "kingdom by the sea." The speaker introduces her in the third line by calling her a "maiden," which lets us know that she is young, but which also keeps up the fairy-tale feel of the first few lines. You might think of her as being a little like a Disney princess, although as you'll see, this poem is way too dark to be a Disney movie

### **ANNABEL LEE: A HEARTBREAK TO REMEMBER**

The poem *Annabel Lee* tells about the narrator's yearning feelings for his/her beloved one, a typical true love which lasts regardless, even when the beloved is no longer in the world.

The first stanza of this poem depicts where the narrator (preassumed as Edgar Allan Poe) met Annabel Lee (preassumed as Virginia Clemm 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;

(stanza 1, line 1-4)

Poe first met Virginia while living in his grandmother's house in Baltimore, and that "Baltimore is the second largest seaport in the Mid-Atlantic" strengthens the presumption that Annabel Lee, whom he wrote actually refers to Virginia. Although Poe was born in Richmond, Virginia, he spent a lot of time in Baltimore and began his transformation from a poet into a writer of imaginative short stories. It was even said that Poe claimed Baltimore as his place of birth instead of Boston (Anonymous, 2009). A former neighbor from their last residence in Fordham, New York, Mrs. Rebecca Cromwell confessed as quoted in "Edgar Poe's Cottage" from *Scranton Republican* published in June 21<sup>st</sup> 1883 (Anonymous, 2014), "She (Virginia) was buried up in the old Dutch cemetery but they afterwards moved her to Baltimore.. He used to cry over her grave every day and kept it green with flowers" (p. 2, col. 3, reprinted from the *New York Herald*, and reprinted in K.