

Year 6 English

Tuesday 19th May 2020



Over the next few weeks, you should be able to complete this English work independently.

You can still use a dictionary or thesaurus to improve your writing.

<https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english>

You can complete this work in your homework book.

If you have any questions, write them down and we can discuss them during our weekly phone call.

Tuesday 19th May 2020

LO to explore the symbolism of a raven.

This week, our English work is going to be based on the poem 'The Raven' by Edgar Allan Poe.

This poem was written in 1845 (the Victoria era) and therefore some of the language in the poem is challenging.

Don't worry if you don't understand every word of the poem-although you can always use a thesaurus or online search to find out definitions.

You will be able to follow the story of the poem in the same way we followed the story of the Highway Man.



What do you know about ravens?



The raven is a big black bird, a member of the crow family. It is massive - the biggest member of the crow family. It is all black with a large bill, and long wings. In flight, it shows a diamond-shaped tail.



Ravens are very common in Europe. In the UK, they can be seen on the green areas of the map all year round.



Ravens are famous as guards of the Tower of London- they are believed to protect the jewels there.



Ravens are very intelligent animals- in recent scientific studies they have been proven to be more intelligent than a 4-year old!

Here is an interesting online article about ravens if you want to find out more.

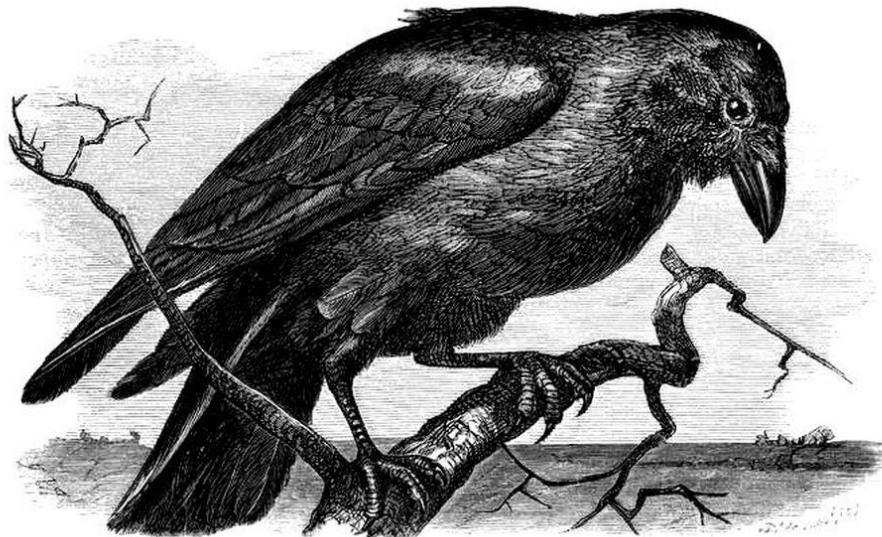
<https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/53295/10-fascinating-facts-about-ravens>

Answer these questions in your book now.

-What do you think ravens symbolise?

-Why do you think Edgar Allen Poe chose to make the bird a raven?

How would it have changed the tone of the poem if he had chosen a different bird, for example a parrot?



RAVEN.—*Corvus Corax.*



www.fromoldbooks.org

Ravens are a very common symbol in Gothic literature. They usually represent mystery, death and bad omens (bad luck in the future). They have black feathers; dark black eyes and they eat the flesh of dying animals.



As birds that can talk, Ravens also represent prophecy (predictions of the future).

Poe could have certainly used another animal in the story, but the effect wouldn't have been the same. He could have used a parrot, for example, but a parrot can speak many words and is brightly colored which doesn't fit in with the darkness of Gothic literature. There is something ominous about the raven only saying one word- nevermore. A raven is midnight black, which mirrors the setting of the story.



Open here I flung the shutter, when, with many a flirt and flutter,
In there stepped a stately Raven of the saintly days of yore;
Not the least obeisance made he; not a minute stopped or stayed
he;
But, with mien of lord or lady, perched above my chamber door—
Perched upon a bust of Pallas just above my chamber door—
Perched, and sat, and nothing more.

Then this ebony bird beguiling my sad fancy into smiling,
By the grave and stern decorum of the countenance it wore,
“Though thy crest be shorn and shaven, thou,” I said, “art sure no
craven,
Ghastly grim and ancient Raven wandering from the Nightly shore—
Tell me what thy lordly name is on the Night’s plutonian shore!”
Quoth the Raven “Nevermore.”

Much I marvelled this ungainly fowl to hear discourse so plainly,
Though its answer little meaning—little relevancy bore;
For we cannot help agreeing that no living human being
Ever yet was blessed with seeing bird above his chamber door—
Bird or beast upon the sculptured bust above his chamber door,
With such name as “Nevermore.”

Read this extract of the poem,
when the raven appears at
the man’s window.

Is Poe describing the raven in
a positive or negative way?



Task

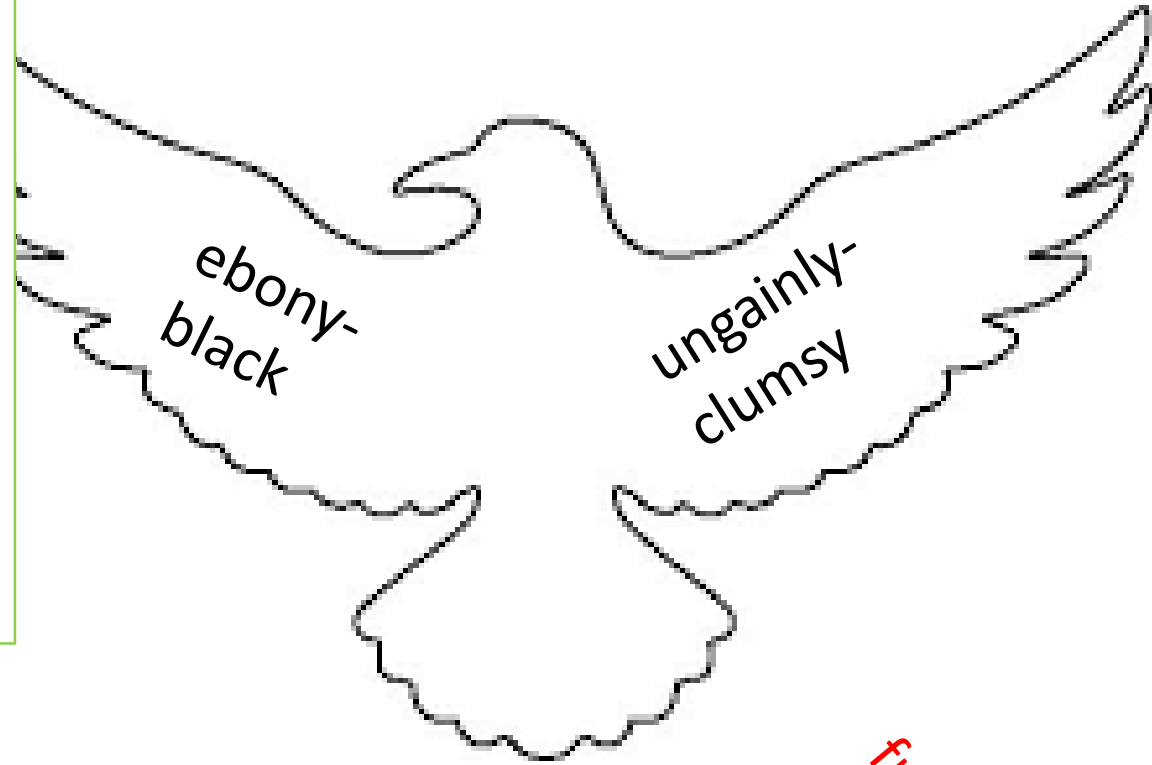
Write the date and learning objective.

Tuesday 19th May 2020

LO to explore the symbolism of the raven.

If you are finding this difficult- look on the next page.

Draw a simple outline of a Raven into your book. Fill in the picture with all of the words used to describe the raven in the poem (use the extract on the previous page). You need to write a **synonym for each of these words too. You will need to make your raven picture fairly big (half a page).**



frightened

Challenge

Outside of the raven, write down the effect that the description of the raven would have on the reader.

Which of these words would describe a raven?



Choose three words and use them to write a sentence about the raven.

happy creepy black dark

bright clever silly evil

unpleasant sneaky scary funny

