"The Tell-Tale Heart" by Edgar Allan Poe – Reading and Questions

- Read the short story "The Tell-Tale Heart" by Edgar Allan Poe. You might choose to do this as a class, in small groups, or individually.
- After reading, have students answer the comprehension questions using evidence from the text.
- Tip: Remember the Highlights and Notes feature built into *Gale in Context: Middle School*. This is a great way to cite text evidence! Once students make their annotations, they can share via Google Drive or Microsoft OneDrive!

"The Tell-Tale Heart" by Edgar Allan Poe – Think-Tac-Toe

- In this activity, students will choose 3 options from the board – completing three-in-a row like in the game tic-tac-toe. They can choose to go down, across, or diagonal.
- The center of the board is a "free choice" meaning they can select any option from the board to use that space.
- Tip: Consider having them cite their sources when *using Gale In Context: Middle School* for their research!

Resource	Link
Highlights and Notes Tutorial	https://support.gale.com/doc/galetools-video2
Google Drive and OneDrive Tutorial	https://support.gale.com/doc/galetools-video3
"The Tell-Tale Heart" by Edgar Allan Poe Short Story	https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/PC4205130210/MSIC
"The Tell-Tale Heart" Work Guide Page	https://link.gale.com/apps/portal/BFJFMB395760034/MSIC
Make sure students have accessed Gale In Context: Middle School before entering the links	

DIRECTIONS: After reading "The Tell-Tale Heart" by Edgar Allan Poe through *Gale In Context: Middle School* answer the following questions.

Matching:

1. Match the following characters with their descriptions:

Narrator	a) The people who come to investigate the noise
The Old Man	b) Who comes to investigate the house
Police officers	c) The person with the "vulture eye"

True/False:

2. True or False: The narrator believes he is sane.
3. True or False: The narrator kills the old man out of jealousy.
4. True or False: The police officers initially suspect the narrator of murder.
5. True or False: The narrator confesses to the murder.

Fill in the Blank:

6. The narrator claims that he is not mad but rather _____.
7. The narrator is disturbed by the old man's _____.
8. The narrator describes the sound of the old man's heart as _____.
9. The story is primarily told from a _____ point of view.
10. The narrator decides to kill the old man because of his _____.

Multiple Choice:

11. What does the narrator do every night for seven nights before killing the old man?
a) Watches the old man sleep
b) Plans the murder meticulously
c) Listens to the old man's heartbeat
d) Stalks the old man outside his house

12. How does the narrator claim to feel about the old man?
a) He despises him
b) He pities him
c) He loves him
d) He fears him

13. What does the narrator mistake for the sound of the old man's heartbeat?
a) The ticking of a clock
b) The sound of his own breathing
c) The creaking of the floorboards
d) The buzzing of a fly

14. What does the narrator do with the old man's body after killing him?
a) Buries it under the floorboards
b) Throws it into a river
c) Burns it in the fireplace
d) Hides it in the attic

GALE

Matching:
Narrator   a) The person who hears the beating heart
Old man   b) The person with the "vulture eye"
Police officers: c) The people who come to investigate the noise

True/False:
2. True
3. False
4. False
5. True

Fill in the Blank:
6. The narrator claims that he is not mad but rather <u>nervous</u>.
7. The narrator is disturbed by the old man's <u>vulture eye</u>.
8. The narrator describes the sound of the old man's heart as <u>a low, dull, quick sound</u>.
9. The story is primarily told from a <u>first-person</u> point of view.
10. The narrator decides to kill the old man because of his <u>evil eye</u>.

Multiple Choice:
11. c) Listens to the old man's heartbeat
12. a) He claims to love him.
13. a) The ticking of a clock
14. a) Buries it under the floorboards

"The Tell-Tale Heart" by Edgar Allan Poe
THINK-TAC-TOE

DIRECTIONS: After reading "The Tell-Tale Heart", choose three of the options below, creating three-in-a-row - like in tic-tac-toe! Remember to use **The Tell-Tale Heart Work Guide** in *Gale In Context: Middle School*.

Character Analysis Choose a character from the story and create a character profile. This can include details about the character's physical appearance, personality traits, motivations, and actions. This can be done on paper or digitally. Support your analysis with evidence from the text and sources from *Gale In Context: Middle School*.	**Visual Representation** Create a visual representation of a scene from the story using art supplies or digital tools. Focus on capturing the mood, setting, and key elements of the scene. In one paragraph, explain your artistic choices and discuss how your representation reflects the story's themes. Remember to research story elements using *Gale In Context: Middle School.*	**Reader's Theater** Individually or in a group of 2-3, select a section of the story to perform as a reader's theater for the class. This can be done live or as a video. You should use expressive voices, gestures, and facial expressions to bring the characters and events to life.
Creative Writing Rewrite the ending of the story, giving it an alternative twist. You can change the outcome, introduce new characters, or explore different perspectives.	**FREE CHOICE** Select any of the choices to fill this space!	**Argue it Out!** Choose one position to argue: whether the narrator is sane or insane, or reliable or unreliable. Write a 5-paragraph argumentative essay supporting your position. Support your arguments with evidence from the text and sources from *Gale In Context: Middle School*. Remember these graphic organizers.
Literary Analysis Analyze the use of symbolism in the story. Identify at least 3 symbols and explain their significance within the narrative. Support your interpretations with evidence from the text and sources from *Gale In Context: Middle School*.	**Say it in a Song!** Create a playlist for 5 different scenes in the short story, selecting songs that match the mood, tone, and situation being presented in the scene. Write a short description of why you selected each song.	**Lights, Camera, Action!** Watch a film or TV adaptation of "The Tell-Tale Heart" and compare it to the original story, discussing similarities and differences. Analyze how music and sound effects can enhance the atmosphere and mood of a film adaptation of the story.