

Assignments for English III and English IV

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You may access the stories PDF online. Always read the author's biography to help understand the stories.

"The Black Cat" assignment.

1. The narrator opens "The Black Cat" by stating what a kind, gentle individual he was. Compare the narrator before he becomes a crazy alcoholic to the narrator after he becomes a crazy alcoholic. Use specific examples from the story to support your comparison.
2. On a sheet of paper create a plot diagram of the "Black Cat".
3. Answer the following comprehension questions in complete sentences:
 - a. What is ironic about the story?
 - b. What did black cats use to be according to an ancient myth?
4. Describe the five themes of the story. Cite evidence.
5. How did you view "The Black Cat" Shocking, Entertaining, Violent, or Sympathetic? Describe in a 8-sentence paragraph. Cite evidence, may include quotes.

"Lamb to the Slaughter" assignment

1. Create a comparison/ contrast chart and answer the following questions for **both** stories.
 - a. Setting
 - b. Point of view
 - c. Protagonist, describe him or her
 - d. Protagonist motive for murder
 - e. How is the victim killed?
 - f. Is the murder premeditated?
 - g. Who is the victim in relation to the protagonist?
 - h. What does the protagonist do with the body?
 - i. What preparations are made to ensure the protagonist does not get caught?
 - j. What happens when the police show up?
 - k. Does the murderer get caught?
 - l. Is the story resolved. How.
 - m. How reliable is the narrator of the story? Why? Cite evidence?
 - n. What is ironic at the end of the story?
2. Use the answers in the chart and write a five (5) paragraph eight (8)sentence ESSAY: A Comparison and Contrast of "The Black Cat" by Edgar-Allan-Poe and "The Lamb to Slaughter" by Roald Dahl