

CRT Concepts: Using information from the following paragraph, answer questions 1-10.

(1) Edgar Allan Poe's stories "The Black Cat" and "The Tell-Tale Heart" have many things in common. (2) For starters, both of these creepy tales are told in the first-person by homicidally insane narrators. (3) The narrator of "The Tell-Tale Heart" commits murder simply because the victim had a strangely-colored eye, while the narrator of "The Black Cat" tortures and kills first an innocent cat and later his own wife when she tries to prevent him from killing another one. (4) Neither of these narrators could be considered normal the thing that makes them scary is that they then go to great lengths to hide the evidence of what they have done. (5) In "The Tell-Tale Heart," the narrator chops the body of his victim into pieces, making particular note of how careful he was not to get any blood on his clothing or the floor. (6) He then claims that such carefulness is a sign of his sanity. (7) In "The Black Cat," the narrator considers chopping his wife's body into tiny bits, packaging it like a parcel, and sending it off in the mail! (8) He considers this one of a "series of mere household events." (9) Stephen King has probably read the stories of Edgar Allan Poe. (10) Not only are Poe's narrator's often insane, but they both end up giving themselves away to the authorities. (11) In "The Tell-Tale Heart," the narrator believes he hears the beating of the old man's heart, and he tears up the floorboards under which the remains are hidden in order to stop the pounding of the heart. (12) "The Black Cat" ends with the narrator, in a fit of ridiculous overconfidence before the police, pounding on the cement wall behind which he has buried the remains of his wife. (13) The cat, which he also buried unknowingly, howls and alerts the police to the narrator's crime. (14) As you can see, Poe's stories contain many common ideas. (15) All of them creepy.

1. Which number corresponds to the **topic sentence** of the paragraph?
a. 1 b. 4 c. 9 d. 11 e. 14
2. Which of these best describes the **main idea** of the paragraph?
a. The life of Edgar Allan Poe c. Comparing two of Poe's stories
b. The effects of Poe on modern writers d. The narrator in "The Black Cat"
3. Which number corresponds to a **transition** statement in the paragraph?
a. 3 b. 4 c. 7 d. 10 e. none of these
4. Which number corresponds to a **run-on**?
a. 2 b. 3 c. 4 d. 5 e. 6
5. Which number corresponds to a **fragment**?
a. 8 b. 9 c. 10 d. 14 e. 15
6. Which number corresponds to the **conclusion** statement?
a. 11 b. 12 c. 13 d. 14 e. 15
7. Which number corresponds to a **comma splice**?
a. 3 b. 6 c. 11 d. 12 e. none of these
8. Who is the **audience** of this paragraph?
a. teachers of English c. people studying Poe's short stories
b. people who liked "The Raven" d. the principal of the school
9. Which sentence does not belong in the paragraph?
a. 3 b. 5 c. 7 d. 9 e. 11
10. Which of the following best **paraphrases** sentence #11 in the paragraph?
a. The narrator of "Tell-Tale Heart" goes insane and exposes the remains of the man he killed.
b. In "The Tell-Tale Heart," the narrator believes he hears the beating of the old man's heart, and he tears up the floorboards under which the remains are hidden in order to stop the pounding of the heart.
c. Edgar Allan Poe went crazy and killed the old man.
d. The heart beat kept pounding in the narrator's ears, and he thought the old man was alive.