1. To whom might the narrator be telling his story? Where do you think he is as he tells it?
2. The narrator tries desperately to convince his listener that he is sane. What evidence does he give? How do his arguments actually demonstrate his madness?
3. How does the opening paragraph **foreshadow**, or hint at, the events of the story?
4. What is your explanation for the “heartbeat” noise that drives the narrator to confess? Draw on evidence from the text to support your opinion.
5. Why is this story called “The Tell-Tale Heart,” in your opinion? (Can you think of more than one meaning for the title?)
6. The **mood**, or **atmosphere**, is the overall feeling in a story. For example, the mood might be happy or sad or scary. Writers create mood by piling up carefully chosen details. How would you describe the mood of this story? What details does Poe use to create that mood?
7. What did you find scary, unsettling, or otherwise memorable about this story? Explain what you think this story shares with other stories that scare people.

**Words to Own**

**Related Meanings**

For each group of words below, cross out the word whose meaning or part of speech is different than the Word to Own. The Word to Own is in boldface type.

**Example**: **a. vexed** b. ~~uneasiness~~ c. troubled d. bothered

*Vexed, troubled,* and *bothered* are all verbs meaning “disturbed.” *Uneasiness* is a noun meaning “a state of being uncomfortable or disturbed.”

1. a. dull b. **acute** c. keen d. sensitive
2. a. annoyed b. irritated c. **vexed** d. soothing
3. a. **sagacity** b.understand c. wisdom d. intelligence
4. a. standstill b. abstained c. **refrained** d. delayed
5. a. cautious b. **wary** c. careful d. slowly
6. a. polish b. raw c. grace d. **suavity**
7. a. **audacity** b. boldness c. nerve d. politeness
8. a. forcefully b. coldly c. **vehemently** d. passionately
9. a. gestures b. motion c. wild d. **gesticulations**
10. a. **derision** b. contempt c. mockery d. silliness

**Suffixes**

Study the similarities between the Word to Own and the word to the right. Then circle the letter of the word that matches the meaning of the boldfaced suffix.

1. deris**ion** depress**ion** 3. vehement**ly** quiet**ly**

a. like a. condition

b. state of b. one who does

c. person who does c. full of

d. study of d. in a specified manner

2. audac**ity** captiv**ity** 4. vex**ed** grant**ed**

a. in a. past tense

b. without b. characterized by

c. state of being c. caused to be

d. full of d. related to