



The Black Cat

By Edgar Allan Poe

جامعة ساوة

كلية التربية

قسم اللغة الانكليزية

المرحلة الثانية

رقم المحاضرة 7

اسم المحاضر م. م. منار منصور علي

EDGAR ALLAN POE: MASTER OF THE MACABRE



- **Life:** American writer (1809–1849). He was orphaned at a young age and raised by John Allan, from whom he took his middle name. He lived in London from 1815 to 1820. He married his 13-year-old cousin, Virginia, in 1836.
- **Early work:** His first poetry collection, *Tamerlane and Other Poems*, was published anonymously at his own expense in 1827.
- **Career:** He worked in the US army and as a journalist, and struggled financially throughout his life.
- **Fiction:** A master of Gothic and psychological tales, he explored themes of **obsession, madness, decay and death** in works such as "**The Fall of the House of Usher**". He was also a pioneer of detective fiction.
- **Poetry:** He achieved fame with "**The Raven**" (1845).
- **Literary philosophy:** Poe believed that a short story should be crafted to achieve a 'single, unified impression', which in his work was often dread or melancholy.
- **Themes and influence:** He is known for his macabre and metaphysical themes, which fascinated later Freudian critics. He strongly influenced European and modern writers, and was admired by Oscar Wilde and W. B. Yeats.

GOTHIC LITERATURE



- Gothic literature is a genre combining elements of horror and romance that emerged in the late eighteenth century. It is characterised by dark, gloomy settings, such as old castles or decaying houses; an atmosphere of mystery and suspense; and a strong focus on fear and psychological terror. Gothic works often explore themes such as death, decay, madness and the supernatural, featuring isolated characters who experience intense emotions. The past frequently haunts the present, and symbols such as ruins, representations of duality, and confinement reflect inner psychological disturbance.

YOUTUBE

- https://youtu.be/nzPjIukF54o?si=A_u6V9F8-Zd8bob

Setting

- The setting is confined, intensifying the focus on the narrator's internal state.
- **Time:** The story is told retrospectively from a jail cell, just before the narrator's execution, which immediately establishes a tone of doom and confession. The events themselves take place over a period of years, detailing the slow decay of the narrator's home life.
- **Place:** Primarily confined to the narrator's house and home, which transforms from a place of domestic harmony into a dark, claustrophobic, and tragic space of madness and murder (the cellar, in particular, becomes the scene of the crime and burial).