

Edgar Allan Poe

American writer Edgar Allan Poe was born in Boston, the son of two actors who died two years after his birth. His adopting family lived in England but Poe returned to America to finish his studies.

A gambler and heavy drinker, he led a tormented life split between dissoluteness and vice, on the one side, and a desire to gain his family's approval, on the other side.

Poe transferred the dualism of his personality into his tales, combining logic and rationality with imagination and fancy.

The Tales of Ratiocination are guided by reason. In them a brilliant private detective, Monsieur Dupin, uses a deductive and psychological method to solve mysteries. These tales became a model for the future development of detective fiction.

The Tales of Imagination include some of Poe's best known stories, among them those inspired by women.

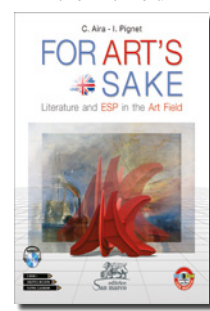
The tales are usually based on man's search for his true self. His characters are usually closed into a little, sometime undefined, place that represents the mother's womb and feel terror for what is in themselves and not for the world outside. They have destructive passions for women that are intelligent and beautiful but condemned to fade away.

The themes are mainly based on the relationship between life and death and love and death and always aim at creating fear and anguish in the reader's mind.

Even though Poe's world-fame is linked to his tales, he preferred poetry, believing poetry-writing to be an almost divine act because it involves pure creation.

The Raven, which sums up his poetic theory, consists of eighteen six-line stanzas written according to Poe's poetic principles.

C. Aira - I. Pignet
**FOR ART'S
SAKE**
Literature and ESP in
the Art Field



ACTIVITIES

- 1 Sum up Poe's literary production.