

Poe Short Story Report

Title Ligeia

Author Edgar Allen Poe

Name Sarah

Date 10/25/06

Fill in the table. Put an 'X' where you like.

the story was enjoyable _____	the story was not enjoyable
the story was fun to read _____	the story was not so fun to read
the story was exciting _____	The story was not exciting
the story was easy to read _____	the story was difficult to read
the story was easy to understand _____	the story was difficult to understand
the characters were interesting _____	the characters were not so interesting
the vocabulary was easy _____	the vocabulary was difficult
I enjoyed it very much _____	I didn't like the story.

What grade do you give the book (out of 10)? 8

I would like to read it again sometime? YES

My impression of the book .

Finish these sentences:

This story was more exciting the first time I read it (years ago)

My favorite character was Ligeia, because she came back from the dead to inhabit the new wife's body.

I didn't like the writing because it was old-fashioned language.

The plot was predictable, for Poe, but probably exciting if you've never read him. Also the plot was slow, since there was a lot of description of them sitting around reading, and also descriptions of the room.

I really liked the description of Ligeia, how beautiful she was, but also the beauty had to have an element of disproportion about it.

Any other comments:

The narrator is an opium addict, very heavily so by the end of the story, so he's not all that reliable when he tells us his first dead wife is back to poison the new wife (conveniently blonde and blue-eyed, where Ligeia had dark hair and magnificent eyes) and inhabit her body. Poe certainly was affected by the death of his own young wife, and also (if my memory serves me) his mother, what with the first wife being beautiful and perfect (the WORDS in BOOKS were sad when her eyes couldn't look at them anymore? and how did she bring him more fortune? What a strange little detail to add sans explanation). He was fascinated by the idea of being dead and alive at the same time, something we see in *The Fall of the House of Usher* and this story, and probably other stories that I can't think of now. Poe also sets the scene clearly, but always (it seems) creepily - what is with the sarcophaguses in the corners, and the weird shapes and all that? You find the same thing in *The Masque of the Red Death* - everyone is creeped out to begin with the dark, shadowy decorating theme, it's just a matter of time before they drop dead. How could you not die in a poorly lit room, coffins propped up in the corners, shapes on the wall that MOVE because there's a wind behind them? Then there's the mysterious illness that kills her (and what's her name, Madeline Usher?). Maybe Dupin should look into those deaths. And that poem that he recites, that she wrote . . . The conquering worm. She knew death would win in the end, but also believed that her will would keep her from dying. Maybe our narrator brought her body with him in one of the sarcophagi he had in the room. He certainly brought her spirit with him, and if he didn't kill Lady Rowena, maybe she killed herself to get away from him. Poe doesn't seem to definitely want us to believe Ligeia came back, since the narrator is completely under the influence of opium, but he (Poe) also hints that maybe Ligeia does the killing.