



**Teachers' Guide and Lesson Plan:**

***Edgar, Allan, and Poe and the Tell-Tale Beets***

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**Part 1: Before reading the book**

**Vocabulary**

- Tell-tale
- Beets
- Revolting
- Reeked
- Languished
- Geyser
- Overwhelming

## **Part 2: Literal Comprehension Questions**

1. What did Edgar, Allan, and Poe's mother promise them if they ate their dinner?
2. What was Edgar's plan for making the foul food disappear?
3. Which foods did Edgar, Allan, and Poe hide from their parents?
4. How did Edgar distract his parents?
5. Why did Edgar finally tell his parents about hiding the food?
6. How did their mother punish the boys when she found out?
7. Who was the last person in the story to hide food, and what food did he hide?

## **Part 3: Discussion Questions**

1. Why does the mother feel it is important that the boys eat their dinner?
2. What do you think the mother is trying to teach her kids by promising dessert if they finish their dinner?
3. What do you think the bad smell and the "beet, beet, liver, liver" sounds represent?
4. What do you think the author's purpose was in writing this story?
5. What do you think was the worst thing that the boys did in the story?
6. Do you agree with the punishment that they received?

## **Part 4: Language Arts & Creative Thinking**

1. Write about a time you did something that made you feel guilty. Why did you feel this way?
2. Draw or write about some creative things that Edgar, Allan, and Poe's mother could do to make them WANT to eat foods like vegetables for dinner.
3. Draw or write about your idea of the perfect dinner.

## Grammar

*Edgar, Allan and Poe and the Tell-Tale Beets* contains very vivid vocabulary. Have the class write a list of all the descriptive words they can find in the book:

- Revoltingly
- Horrible
- Rickety
- Squishy
- Liquidy
- Bouncy
- Red
- Slimy
- Loose
- Big
- Disgusting
- Quietly
- Thick
- Prize-winning
- Funny
- Stinky
- Faintly
- Overwhelming
- Quiet
- Awful
- Fresh
- Green
- Large
- Stringy
- Chunky
- Drippy
- Bubbly
- Enormous
- Cheese-curdling
- Yucky
- Loose

Make up or bring in some mad libs to do with the class using vocabulary found through the story. Have everyone do them together or break up in groups to do on their own and share with the class after.

## **Part 5: Ideas for Activities**

### **Learn About Food groups**

Bring in / draw a food group chart to show the kids, discuss why each group is important and how it helps our bodies.

Cut out magazine pictures/draw foods from each group. Hand out a blank paper to each kid and have them design a plate combining each food group using the cut-outs/drawings.

## Literature

### **The Tell Tale Heart**

By: Edgar Allan Poe

[http://www.poemuseum.org/selected\\_works/print\\_telltale.html](http://www.poemuseum.org/selected_works/print_telltale.html)

*Edgar, Allan and Poe and the Tell Tale Beets* is a useful way to introduce author and poet, Edgar Allan Poe, as well as the topics of creative interpretations, literary tributes, creative license, caricature, satire, and parody.

Satire: A play, film, or novel which uses humour and exaggeration to criticize something or someone's behaviour and ideas.

Some additional "interpretations" to share with the class:

- *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs* Written by Jon Scieszka, illustrated by Lane Smith
  - *The Frog Prince, Continued* Written by Jon Scieszka, illustrated by Steve Johnson
  - *Walt Disney's Alice in Wonderland* Written by Jon Scieszka, illustrated by Mary Blair
  - *The Wolf's Story: What Really Happened to Little Red Riding Hood* Written by Toby Forward, illustrated by Izhar Cohen
  - *Cinder Edna* Written by Ellen Jackson, illustrated by Kevin O'Malley
1. Have the students work in groups to prepare a project/biography on Edgar Allan Poe, as well as other classic authors to be presented to the class.
  2. Read some classic stories with the class and have the students write their own parodies or imaginative spoofs on the story of their choice. This can be done individually, in groups, or as a class.

For more information, or to connect with the author, Natalie Rompella, please visit her at <http://www.nalierompella.com>.