



Edgar Allen Poe

Edgar Allan Poe was born in Massachusetts In 1809. He is one of America's most famous writers, known mostly for his dark and unusual short stories, which were very different from the kinds of things being written at the time. His father, an actor, abandoned his young family, and Poe's mother, an actress, died of tuberculosis when Poe was three. He and his siblings were raised by foster parents.

Poe showed an early interest and aptitude in writing, though his foster father wanted him to work in the family business. When his foster father wouldn't help him pay for his studies at the University of Virginia, Poe's attempts to get the money he needed through gambling landed him in debt. While he was away at college, his fiancée became engaged to someone else. In 1827, Poe joined the Army and was sent to West Point. There, he published his first book, "Tamerlane."

After quitting West Point, Poe traveled a great deal. During this time, his father died, having cut Poe out of his will. Penniless, he entered and won a short story contest. He spent two years working as an editor for a literary magazine, where he earned a reputation for being a harsh critic. Though he worked with many other magazines, it wasn't until 1845 when his famous poem "The Raven" was published in the New York Evening Mirror that Poe achieved literary success. At the same time, though, some of his contemporary writers became his critics. Unfortunately, his literary success did not mean financial success, and Poe continued to struggle. He also advocated for better pay for writers and for international copyright laws.

In 1849, on his way to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Poe was found in Baltimore and taken to the hospital, where he died. He was buried in a grave that was unmarked for many years, until a monument was eventually placed on his grave. Poe continues to be considered a brilliant and innovative writer, and his work still influences artists today.

1. Who was Edgar Allen Poe?
2. What was the name of the work that launches his literary success?
3. Did Poe find financial success?

