

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Haunted Beliefs

In Edgar Allan Poe's *The Black Cat*, superstition plays a big role in the narrator's perception of events. At the beginning of the story, the narrator owns a black cat named Pluto. Many people believe black cats bring bad luck, and although the narrator claims he does not believe in such things, his actions suggest otherwise. When he begins drinking too much, his personality changes, and he starts treating

Pluto cruelly. In a moment of rage, he harms the cat. Soon after, strange events occur—his house burns down, and on the wall of the ruins, he sees an image of a cat with a rope around its neck. This terrifies him, as if some unseen force is punishing him.

Later, a second black cat appears, looking almost exactly like Pluto. The narrator notices that this new cat has a white mark on its chest, and over time, he believes it is changing into the shape of a noose. He starts to think that the cat is watching him, judging him for his past actions. Though he tries to convince himself that there is a logical explanation for everything, his fear grows. He begins to believe the cat is a supernatural being sent to punish him.

Superstition takes over the narrator's mind. Instead of admitting that his guilt is making him see things, he blames the cat for his troubles. He thinks the cat has cursed him and caused him to act in ways he cannot control. In reality, his own guilt and fear are the true causes of his downfall.

Poe's story shows how powerful superstition can be. The narrator starts as a man who doesn't believe in bad luck, but as strange events unfold, he convinces himself that a black cat is bringing him misery. Instead of taking responsibility for his actions, he allows superstition to cloud his judgment. In the end, his belief in supernatural punishment leads to his capture, proving that sometimes, fear itself can be more dangerous than any curse.