Reread “The Tell-Tale Heart” for quiz on the story tomorrow. Find definition of blue words by clicking on them as you reread. Take the online quizzes by clicking on the black links.

1. What is the narrator’s motive for murder?

The narrator was annoyed by the old man’s blue eye (like a vulture) pale film over it that annoyed the narrator.

2. How did the narrator kill the old man?

The narrator suffocated the old man with the old man’s mattress.

3. Specifically, how did the narrator know the old man was dead?

The old man’s heart stopped beating.

4. What does the narrator do to conceal the body, to conceal the crime?

The narrator dismembered (cut into body parts) the body.

5. Where did the narrator hide the body parts of the corpse?

The body parts of the corpse are hidden under the floor planks.

6. What is the relationship between the narrator and the old man?

The old man owns the house; the narrator rents a room from him.

7. The narrator sets out to prove to readers that he is not mad

(insane, crazy).

8. By the end of the story, readers are convinced of the narrator’s

insanity, which is ironic, because he set out to prove his sanity.

9. Why isn’t there any blood to give the narrator away? The narrator dismembered the corpse over the tub, and the blood went down the drain.

10. Why do the police come to the narrator’s house?

A shriek was heard in the night by a neighbor.

11. How does the narrator explain the shriek?

The narrator says the shriek was his own during a nightmare.

12. The police believe the narrator’s explanation for the shriek.

13. The narrator invites the police in to investigate, saying,

“Search, search well.”

14. The narrator is so arrogant (overly proud, overly confident, full of himself) that he puts his chair on top of the planks under which the dismembered corpse is.

15. The narrator claims he can hear the old man’s heart beating, and the narrator gets paranoid, goes crazy, acts insane.

16. The old man is dead, dismembered, without a heartbeat, so the narrator is hearing his own heart beat. “Louder, louder, louder …”

17. The narrator’s paranoia, guilt, insanity is causing his heart to beat faster.

18. In the end, the narrator confesses the murder, turns himself in, and is taken away by the police.

19. What “tale” does the narrator’s heart “tell”?

The narrator’s guilty conscience leads him to tell the tale of the murder, to confess the crime.

20. Had the narrator not confessed to murder, he would have gotten away with it.