

Eldorado

BY EDGAR ALLAN POE

*Gaily bedight,
A gallant knight,
In sunshine and in shadow,
Had journeyed long,
Singing a song,
In search of Eldorado.

But he grew old—
This knight so bold—
And o'er his heart a shadow—
Fell as he found
No spot of ground
That looked like Eldorado.

And, as his strength
Failed him at length,
He met a pilgrim shadow—
'Shadow,' said he,
'Where can it be—
This land of Eldorado?'

'Over the Mountains
Of the Moon,
Down the Valley of the Shadow,
Ride, boldly ride,'
The shade replied,—
'If you seek for Eldorado!'

*Gaily bedight = Happy and well dressed.

**Use the article below to help you
better understand the poem.**

National Geographic Article

EldoradoBy Willie Drye

The lust for gold spans all eras, races, and nationalities. To possess any amount of gold seems to ignite an insatiable desire to obtain more.

Through the centuries, this passion gave rise to the enduring tale of a city of gold. In the 16th and 17th centuries, Europeans believed that somewhere in the New World there was a place of immense wealth known as El Dorado. Their searches for this treasure wasted countless lives, drove at least one man to suicide, and put another man under the executioner's ax.

"El Dorado shifted geographical locations until finally it simply meant a source of untold riches somewhere in the Americas," says [Jim Griffith](#), a folklorist in Tucson, Arizona.

Questions for Eldorado

1. Why do you think the word shadow is used in every stanza? What could be the meaning in each stanza?
2. How does the poem change from beginning to the end? Use examples from the poem?
3. Who, or what might the pilgrim shadow be?
4. What do you think the response of the shadow means?
5. What is the theme of this poem?

Assessment:

1. Too many questions do not show thoughtful insights and critical thinking. Very little or no examples are used.
2. Enough questions show the student is able to do some critical thinking. Insights are present but mostly simple, straightforward, and/or surface level. Few examples are used
3. Most questions show the ability to think critically. Usually, evidence is used to sufficiently support ideas. Enough thoughtful insights are present that demonstrate good reading skills.
4. Nearly all questions are answered with thought and detail. Insights show excellent levels of critical thinking for a grade 7 student. Evidence is used well and shows strong analytical abilities.

Questions for The Landlady

1. What was your first clue that something was not quite right with the Bed and Breakfast and the landlady?
2. How does the author make the tone of the story “creepy”? Use specific examples and detailed explanations as to why your examples are creepy/mysterious.
3. What “Red Herrings” does the landlady use to convince Mr. Weaver that there is nothing to worry about?
4. What does the lines 475-477 reveal about the landlady?
5. Write the next 50-100 words of this story if it continued past the end (no less than 50 no more than 100 words)! Hint- a bitter almonds taste may indicate an Arsenic poisoning.