

Questions for "The Black Cat" by Edgar A. Poe

Name: _____



1. Where is the narrator as he is telling his story?
3. Why is the narrator telling the story?
4. What was the narrator like as a child? As a young married man?
5. What was his wife like?
6. The antagonist of the story is a large black cat named Pluto. Why did the narrator's wife feel perhaps Pluto was a witch?
7. Describe Pluto. Look up the meaning of his name in the process and explain why Poe selected it.
8. What occurred that cost Pluto an eye?
9. How did Pluto react to the narrator after he maimed him? How did the narrator feel about this?
10. What happened the night the narrator killed Pluto?
11. What image was burned on the one remaining wall of the house? How did the narrator account for the image?
12. Why did the narrator seek a new cat, and how did he find one?
13. In what way does the new cat compare to Pluto?
14. Why did the narrator begin to loathe the new cat?
15. What prevented the narrator from mistreating the new cat?
16. What form began to appear on the breast of the new cat? How did this affect the narrator?
17. Describe the events leading to the death of the narrator's wife.
18. Why did the narrator think the cat had disappeared from his life?
19. What led to the narrator's downfall?
20. Using a dictionary, define the word "retribution". How does the theme of retribution apply to the story?
21. Using a dictionary, define the word "reincarnation". How does the theme of reincarnation apply to the story?

"The Black Cat" Vocabulary Quiz

Name: _____

Matching: Match the word to its definition. You may use a dictionary to help you with your answers. There is one extra definition.

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| ___ 16. insufferable | a. to make (something) less strong |
| ___ 17. minute | b. very difficult to understand or know; not showing emotions |
| ___ 18. loathing | c. willingly doing what is not right or good |
| ___ 19. chimera | d. too grievous to bear; unable to be borne |
| ___ 20. inscrutable | e. heinous crime |
| ___ 21. vile | f. evil, low, mean |
| ___ 22. baroque | g. grotesque; highly ornamental in an elaborate, grotesque manner |
| ___ 23. allay | h. a deep-seated dislike or hatred |
| ___ 24. atrocity | i. Very small, tiny |
| ___ 25. perverse | j. a mythological monster; a hope or dream unlikely to come true |
| | k. obligatory |