“The Tell-Tale Heart” by Edgar Allan Poe
Interactive Reading Guide
Answer the following questions while listening to Edgar Allan Poe’s “The Tell-Tale Heart”.

Stop reading at the end of line 18: “I went to work!”

Who is the narrator of this story?

From which point of view is the story being told?

Do you trust the narrator? Why or why not?

What evidence does the narrator provide to prove that he is “not mad”?

How does the evidence the narrator provides work against him?

What is the narrator’s “plan”?

Why does the narrator want to kill the old man?

How many nights did the narrator watch the old man before he killed him?

Why does the narrator treat the old man so well when he awakes each morning?

What finally prompts the narrator to kill the old man?

How does the narrator commit the murder?

How does the narrator make sure the old man is really dead?

Finish the story.

How does the narrator dispose of the old man’s body?

How does the narrator feel about the job that he has done?

How do you know he feels this way?

Why do the police show up at the house?

How does the narrator initially react to the police?

Whose heart do you think the narrator was hearing?

Why do you think the narrator finally confesses?

What might the heartbeat symbolize?

Plot Analysis

Exposition

What is the basic situation in “The Tell-Tale Heart”?

What is the setting?

Characters: Who are the main characters?
Rising Action

What are two main events in the rising action?

1. ..................................................................................................................

2. ..................................................................................................................

Describe the INTERNAL conflict in "The Tell-Tale Heart":

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Describe the EXTERNAL conflict in the "The Tell-Tale Heart":

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Climax

What is the climax in the story?

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Falling Action

What are two main events in the falling action?

1. ..................................................................................................................

2. ..................................................................................................................

Resolution

What is the resolution of "The Tell-Tale Heart"?

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