The Raven

# Notes-American Gothic & The Raven

* We start with a setting of creepy, gloom, and darkness. (American Gothic)
* Narrator is sitting in his creepy apartment reading.
* He hears a sound, and thinks it’s a visitor tapping on his door.
* The dying fire adds to the creepy setting (American Gothic)
* He was praying for the next day to come, because he is depressed over his loss of his love (Lenore) – Romanticism and American Gothic= highly charged emotions. In this poem, love & loss are the charged emotions.
* He sees the wind blowing the curtains & is freaked out. He reminds himself that it’s probably just a visitor.
* He opens the door, to find no one there.
* He hears a whisper “Lenore.”
* He said Lenore. Which shows us he thinks her ghost is in the hall. (American Gothic)
* He hears a tapping on his window… in comes a Raven, who perches on his bedroom door over a statue.
* The Raven says his name is Nevermore.
* The narrator tells the bird he knows he’ll leave him, because everyone else always leaves.
* The Raven says “nevermore.”
* He refers to the Raven as “she.”
* He says the angels sent the Raven to make him feel better and forget his lost love, but the Raven replies “Nevermore.”
* The narrator asks if he’ll be reunited with Lenore, the Raven answers “nevermore.”
* The narrator says he’s lying, and tells him to leave.
* The Raven doesn’t leave.
* Still, the Raven sits on his door, casting a shadow over him, reminding him of Lenore.
* The Raven is kind of a metaphor for his feeling of grief that hangs over him like a shadow, reminding him he lost Lenore
* Romanticism & American Gothic- creepy apartment, dying fire, charged emotions of grief and love, lots of references to darkness (The Raven is black, its nighttime, the fire is dying)