



PROGRAM INFORMATION: MASTER CLASSES

Years 6, 7 and 8

Program Title	Ravin' About Poe
Time Schedule (AEDT)	Registration commences 10 minutes before the session begins WEEKNIGHT PROGRAMS Registration: 4.20 pm Session: 4.30 pm – 6.00 pm SATURDAY MORNING PROGRAMS Registration: 9.20 am Session: 9.30 am – 11.00 am
Zoom Meeting Links	Meeting link, meeting I.D and password will be emailed two days before the program.
Zoom Information	Are you new to Zoom? Please use this link for Zoom start-up information.
Online Program Set-up	Please prepare the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Headphones✓ Notepad for writing/taking notes✓ Pens/pencils
Program Requirements	Session 1: Please download THIS READER and have either open on your device or printed for the first session.

Program Description

Introduction:

Imagine writing the first work of fiction to use cryptography (secret codes) - maybe with a pirate map and buried treasure for good measure.

Imagine inventing the world's first 'modern' fictional detective, and having your creation lay the foundations for an entire genre of literature.

Imagine composing poems so memorable that quotes from them have become engrained in our common language. Imagine creating stories so spine-tingling that it triggered a Gothic and horror fiction mania, and sparked strange mythologies about you.

Imagine being so extraordinary that your grave was visited by a mysterious stalker for 75 YEARS after your death. Imagine remaining so unforgettable that your name and writing became an answer to the most puzzling riddle in literature...

Now imagine being ALL those things at once... because THAT was Edgar Allen Poe! And in this masterclass series we'll be investigating this classy master of the macabre, digging up well-earned treasure and delving into well-crafted terror with some of his most famous fictions, and stirring up his immortal tales and tropes into heart-stopping, blood-chilling, thrill-seeking, fun-loving story-telling of our own...

Session One: Decoding *The Gold Bug*

Code-breaking, cipher-building, treasure-hunting and story-crafting – today's session is its own action-adventure inspired by a blockbuster award-winning short story that shot Poe to fame. X marks the plot as we solve (and resolve?) the invisibly-inked problems of popularity, racism and piracy in *The Gold Bug* before designing new mysteries, maps and cryptographs to underpin our own takes of high adventure...



Session Two: Unearthing *The Purloined Letter*

Pit wits with the great detective Dupin as we encounter a locked room, a lost secret, an ingenious solution – and a complex allegory beloved of literary critics...? Poe's prose in *The Purloined Letter* will be forced to unveil the secrets within its secrets, as we both explore the ways in which our own text analysis becomes an act of 'ratiocination' and detective skill, and use a similarly 'simple' narrative to create our own speculative tale about some of the 'real' mysteries of writing and language...

Session Three: Releasing *The Bells*

The Mad Hatter and Lewis Carroll asked "Why is a raven like a writing desk?", but this riddle and arguably Poe's most famous poem may soon be drowned out today by the stunning music and startling onomatopoeia of *The Bells*. This weird and wonderful poetic earworm churns up neologism and metaphor, and chimes the merry with the morbid, and will form the soundtrack to our own sensory-driven poesy and prose as we write into AND against Poe's verses...

Session Four: Surviving *The Pit and the Pendulum*

Comedic troupe Monty Python insisted that no-one expects the Spanish Inquisition, and our final fable from the pen of Poe ensured no-one would expect the ending to this historical tale of terror. You too will soon be a master of the macabre once we've dissected description and gnawed through narrative to reveal the extraordinary precision with which Poe structures suspense, tightens tension, and dreams up a gloriously Gothic nightmare – and then plundered it for creepy character-centric creations of our own...