**Anastasia Wroblewski**

**8th Hour**

**5/31/12**

**The Horror Story**

**Edgar Allen Poe and Stephen King are probably the most well known horror writers that ever lived. I bet you've heard of them! What we don't know is how these great authors got their inspiration and story lines. From my research I have found that Stephen King's inspiration was none other than our own Edgar Allen Poe, he even wrote a tribute to Edgar's *"The Tell Tale Heart”*, entitled *“The Old Dude’s Ticker”*. But he still says that the writer that influenced him the most would be Richard Matheson. While Stephen’s books have probably reached more people, Edgar’s work was probably the most influential writing of the 18th Century, so he’s the one I’m going to tell you about first.**

**Edgar Allen Poe is an American author, poet, literary critic, and was a private in the US Military for some time. He was born on January 19, 1809. His father left when he was young and his mother died less than 3 years later. You are probably familiar with some of Edgar’s works. His poem "The Raven" is about a bird that sits at his window and says only one thing. “Quote the raven, nevermore." He also wrote many a short story. These stories include Baltimore Sunday Visitor, Tales of the Grotesque and Arabesque and MS. Found in a Bottle. Poe’s inspiration for these one of these stories, “*The Tell Tale Heart”* is thought to come from horror stories written by Charles Dickens and Edward Bulwer Lytton. Edgar Allen Poe is more of a poet. He is very lyrical and pays as much attention to the rhyme and rhythm of the work as well as the story line. Aside from the basic fact that he was born many years earlier than Stephen King, he also uses more proper English language and writes more about fantasy horrors that he sees in his head and then writes down. He doesn’t have a lot off real world inspiration other than other authors. Poe died on October 7, 1849 in Baltimore. The cause of his death is unknown.**

**Stephen on the other hand pays not so much attention to the rhythm of his work as he does the storyline.  Stephen King is a American author of Contemporary Horror, Suspense, Science fiction and Fantasy Fiction. He is also more of a literal fantasy writer. He writes things that seem more like they could happen in real life. He also writes a lot more novels. Edgar writes more of short works. Books written by Stephen King include Pet Cemetery, Salem's Lot, and Book of Horrors. Some of King's words and inspiration are thought to have come from an event that he witnessed in his early childhood. Apparently, King witnessed his friend being hit and killed by a train. This is thought to have given him inspiration on his new series “*The Dark Tower”*. Stephen King was born on September 21, 1947. And he still lives on to write today.**

**Poe and Stephen King’s work though they never met, is remarkably similar in the topic area. On the other hand however, as I have explained before, they are very different in the vocabulary used and writing styles. This is because obviously Poe was born earlier than King so he uses more proper, and sometimes harder to understand, English. I have read many of these author’s books myself and I must tell you, the next time you’re looking for a scare, read one of them. I’m telling you! These books are seriously creepy!**

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