# The Pit and the Pendulum
## Guided Reading Questions

**SUMMARY (4pts.):**
Write a brief "Pit and the Pendulum" summary, 100-200 words.

**GENRE (6pts):**
Identify two elements of Gothic Literature present in this short story.  For each, explain where/how it is present, and its importance to one of the story's central ideas.
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**ELEMENTS OF A STORY (10 pts.)**
1.The exposition is _____.
2.The rising action is _____.
3.The climax is _____.
4.The falling action is _____.
5.The resolution is_____.
Pick one of your sentences above and make a general statement about events, then follow each sentence with evidence from the text and explain why that evidence proves your assertion

EXAMPLE:
1. The exposition is when the protagonist receives his sentence of death and is transported to the dungeon. Poe has the protagonist explain that "the dread sentence of death – was the last distinct accentuation that reached my ears" (Poe 562). This shows the character getting set up for the torture that follows later in the story.

**SETTING: (10 pts.)**
(TIME) The events are most probably taking place _____. The writer shows this when
_____.
(PLACE) The events are most probably taking place _____. The writer shows this when
_____.
(CONDITIONS) The events are most probably taking place _____. The writer shows this when
_____.
Again, pick one of your sentences above and make a general statement about events, then follow each sentence with
evidence from the text and explain why that evidence proves your assertion.

**THEME: (5 pts)**
- What does the narrator fear most, and why?

- How do the narrator's changing states of consciousness affect the story?

**MOOD/TONE: (10 pts)**
The mood of this passage is_____. The writer shows this when _____.
Poe has a _____ tone toward _____,
shown when _____.
One more time, pick one of your sentences above and make a general statement about events, then follow each
sentence with evidence from the text and explain why that evidence proves your assertion.

**SYMBOLISM (5 pts.):**
Circle one of the major symbols (**the pit, the pendulum, the white faced judges, the cell, and the rats**) & identify:

- What Poe uses the symbol to represent

- Where/how often the symbol is featured in the story.

- The symbol's effect on the work as a whole.

- The author's purpose in using the symbol.