**ELA A10  
“The Tell-Tale Heart” Creative Writing Activity**

1. **Introduction and Explanation:**

You have now studied several examples of the Mystery and Suspense genre. Throughout your studies, you have learned a lot about the plot structure and various elements of a short story. One such element is that of the narrator. “The Tell-Tale Heart” has a first person narrator, which we have learned can be *problematic* because he/she can be *biased*. In other words, this type of narrator will tell you only what he/she sees, thinks, feels, and may try to persuade you to share his or her opinions. In “The Tell-Tale Heart,” the narrator repeatedly tries to convince us that he is not insane because, as he sees it, the murder was not only reasonable but quite necessary. However, we tend to see things quite differently than he does…!

1. **Activity and Expectations**

Your assignment, then, is to pretend that you have witnessed the events leading up to the murder, the actual murder itself, as well as the events that took place shortly after the murder. Please be creative, descriptive, and clear in your writing. There is no right or wrong answer, as you will only be marked on your creativity and writing mechanics. You are free to make up a beginning and ended to the story from YOUR point of view. This means you may make up events that occurred before the narrator begins telling the story and/or after he tears the heart from the floor. Does he go to prison? Does he go to a madhouse? Does he kill again? You decide!

1. Assessment and Evaluation

Your written response to the story should be AT LEAST two paragraphs in length. This means there should be AT LEAST ten sentences in your version of the events of “The Tell-Tale Heart.” You will be marked according to the criteria contained in the rubric on the back of this page. Hand-written work is acceptable but PLEASE double space your work!

☺ Have fun and be creative ☺

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|  | **3** | **2** | **1** |
| **Creativity and Originality**  **/6** | Story contains many creative and original elements that consistently surprise the reader | Story contains some creative and original elements that, at times, may surprise reader | Story contains no original or creative elements |
| **Mechanics**  **/3** | The writer consistently uses correct paragraphing, sentence structure, grammar, punctuation, and spelling | The writer sometimes uses correct paragraphing, sentence structure, grammar, punctuation, and spelling | The writer rarely uses correct paragraphing, sentence structure, grammar, punctuation, and spelling |
| **Text Structure**  **/3** | Story is at least two paragraphs in length, with each paragraph containing 5-8 sentences. | Story may either be less than two paragraphs OR may contain paragraphs shorter than 5-8 sentences in length | Story is less than two paragraphs in length and contains less than 5-8 sentences in total. |
| **Descriptive Language**  **/3** | Several well-selected adjectives and adverbs (descriptive words) were used and varied in their use | Some adjectives and adverbs (descriptive words) were used and may not have been varied in their use | Few, if any, adjectives and adverbs (descriptive words) were used and were simply repeated throughout |