

Tell-Tale Heart by Edgar Allan Poe



Rising Action:

- Police arrive to investigate a scream heard in the night.
- The Narrator is so confident about his crime that he invites the police to sit in chairs on the floor above the very spot where the old man is buried.

Climax:

- The Narrator hears a faint sound – like that of a heart beating. He starts to get nervous.



Rising Action:

- He chops up the body and buries it beneath the floorboards in the old man's room.

Falling Action:

- The sound of a beating heart, sounding as if through cotton, gets louder and louder.
- The Narrator believes the police are mocking him – how can they not hear it?

Rising Action:

- One night, the old man is startled and opens his eyes.
- The beam of light from the lantern shines on it.
- The Narrator jumps into the room and smothers the old man to death.



Rising Action:

- For eight nights, the Narrator opens the old man's door while he sleeps and waits to see his "vulture" eye.
- The eye is always closed, so the Narrator continues to let the old man live.



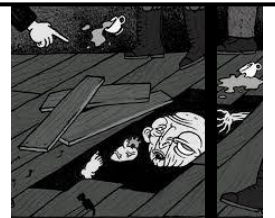
Exposition:

- The Narrator and the old man
- Setting: The old man's house
- The Narrator loves the old man, but hates his "vulture" eye



Resolution:

- The Narrator pulls up the floorboards and admits to his crime of killing the old man!



CONFLICT:

- Category – **Internal Conflict:** Man vs. Self
- **Details:** Narrator vs. his madness
- Category – **External Conflict:** Man vs. Man
- **Details:** Narrator vs. the old man's "vulture" eye