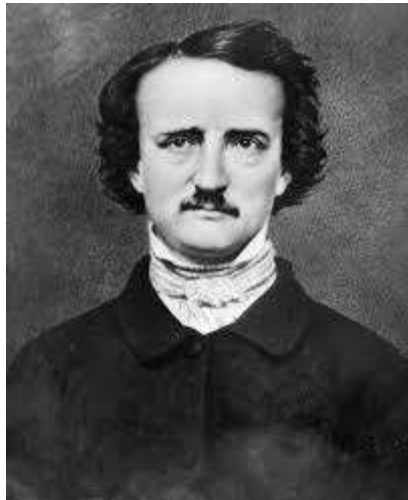


EDGAR ALLAN POE



Edgar Allan Poe (January 19, 1809 – October 7, 1849) was an American writer, poet, editor and literary critic who is best known for his poetry and short stories, particularly his tales involving mystery and the macabre. He is widely regarded as one of the central figures of Romanticism and Gothic Fiction in the United States and of early American literature. Poe was one of the country's first successful practitioners of the short story, and is generally considered to be the inventor of the detective fiction genre. In addition, he is credited with contributing significantly to the emergence of science fiction.

Edgar Allan Poe was born in Boston in 1809. Sadly, his life got off to a rough start—his father left the family, and his mother died when he was just a little boy. Poe was then taken in by a wealthy family in Virginia, the Allans, although they never officially adopted him. He had a love for reading and writing from a young age, but also faced many challenges, including money troubles and the loss of people he loved.

Poe started his writing career with poems, like ‘To Helen and Annabel Lee’, full of emotion, beauty and sadness. But he became most famous for his short stories, especially the mysterious ones. He had a special talent for writing about fear, guilt and the strange things the human mind can do. Some of his most famous stories include ‘The Tell-Tale Heart’, ‘The Black Cat’, and ‘The Fall of the House of Usher’.

He also created something totally new: the detective story! His story ‘The Murders in the Rue Morgue’ introduced a clever detective character who solves a crime using logic. In 1845, Poe became famous for his poem ‘The Raven’, which starts with the line “Once upon a midnight dreary...” This poem, with its dark mood and talking raven, is still studied and loved today.

Even though Poe’s life was short, he died in 1849 under mysterious circumstances. His work continues to be read all over the world. He is remembered as a master of mystery, horror and poetry, and his stories still give readers chills more than 150 years later!