

# **'The Raven' by Edgar Allan Poe: Glossary**

This poem was written in 1845. Some of the words used are not as commonly used today. Many of the words you might not fully understand are explained below. Use a dictionary to look up the meaning of any other words you come across in the poem if you are not 100% sure of the meaning. The words are listed in the order you will find them in the poem.

1. lore = wisdom or knowledge
2. chamber = large room used for meeting people
3. wrought = shaped or formed
4. surcease = relief from / a brief release from
5. entreating = strongly requesting / begging
6. mortal = human / earthly
7. lattice = web/net-like pattern/ trellis
8. obeisance = bow or genuflect
9. mien = appearance or expression
10. bust = life-sized statue of a person's head and shoulders
11. Pallas = Greek God of wisdom and the Arts
12. beguiling = charmed/fascinated
13. decorum = respectability / good manners
14. countenance = face/ expression
15. craven = coward/ gutless
16. Plutonian = Black/ Pluto was Roman god of the underworld
17. discourse = communication/ conversation
18. placid = easy-going/ calm
19. ...only stock and store.. = only thing he has got
20. dirges = funeral song
21. melancholy = sad and gloomy
22. ominous = warning/threatening
23. censer = ghost
24. seraphim = angels of the highest order
25. nepenthe = drug that makes you unconscious
26. Tempter = The Devil
27. ... balm in Gilead .. = medicine to relieve pain and suffering
28. Aidenn = Like Eden/ meaning - in heaven
29. plume = feather
30. pallid = white/ pale/ colourless