

the fall of house of usher analysis

The Fall of the House of Usher: A Comprehensive Analysis

Introduction: Edgar Allan Poe's "The Fall of the House of Usher" isn't just a chilling gothic tale; it's a meticulously crafted work brimming with symbolism, psychological depth, and literary artistry. This comprehensive analysis delves into the story's multifaceted layers, exploring its themes, characters, narrative techniques, and lasting impact. We'll dissect the symbolism of the decaying mansion, unravel the complex relationship between Roderick and Madeline Usher, and examine the story's exploration of madness, death, and the interconnectedness of mind and body. Prepare to uncover the secrets hidden within Poe's masterpiece.

I. The Crumbling Facade: Symbolism and Setting

Poe masterfully uses the decaying House of Usher as a powerful symbol mirroring the mental and physical deterioration of its inhabitants. The crumbling architecture, the dark fissures in the walls, the stagnant tarn—all represent the internal disintegration of Roderick and Madeline. The house itself isn't merely a setting; it's a character, an active participant in the unfolding tragedy. The description meticulously evokes a sense of claustrophobia and decay, foreshadowing the inevitable downfall. The tarn, with its unsettling stillness, reflects the stagnant and morbid atmosphere enveloping the Usher family. The very landscape contributes to the overall sense of doom, reinforcing the inescapable nature of the family's fate.

II. A Study in Madness: Roderick Usher's Psychological State

Roderick Usher is a complex and fascinating character, plagued by a debilitating hypersensitivity to sensory stimuli. Poe masterfully portrays Roderick's descent into madness, highlighting his acute anxieties, morbid fascination with death, and crippling fear of the unknown. His physical and mental states are inextricably linked; his deteriorating health mirrors the crumbling house, while his psychological fragility is reflected in his heightened senses and artistic expression. His art, characterized by a morbid intensity, acts as a visual representation of his internal turmoil. The narrator's observations carefully document Roderick's progressive decline, allowing the reader to witness the gradual erosion of his sanity.

III. The Twin Souls: The Relationship Between Roderick and Madeline Usher

The relationship between Roderick and Madeline Usher is central to the story's unsettling power. Their bond is characterized by an intense, almost telepathic connection, suggesting a deep-seated psychological dependence. Madeline's cataleptic state and subsequent "reanimation" heighten the story's gothic horror and symbolize the intertwined fates of the twins. The incestuous undertones hinted at in their relationship

further intensify the claustrophobic atmosphere and suggest a disturbing familial dysfunction that contributes to their shared doom. Their shared fate underscores the theme of intertwined destinies and the inescapable nature of their hereditary affliction.

IV. Narrative Techniques and Poetic Devices

Poe's mastery of narrative techniques contributes significantly to the story's impact. The first-person narration allows the reader intimate access to the narrator's observations and perceptions, amplifying the sense of unease and suspense. Poe skillfully utilizes foreshadowing throughout the narrative, creating a palpable sense of impending doom. The use of imagery, particularly the vivid descriptions of the house and its surroundings, enhances the gothic atmosphere and evokes a strong emotional response. The story's carefully constructed pacing, alternating between moments of suspense and horrifying revelations, keeps the reader on the edge of their seat. The carefully chosen vocabulary contributes to the story's overall tone of dread and decay.

V. The Fall: Interpretations and Legacy

"The Fall of the House of Usher" has resonated with readers and critics for centuries, spawning numerous interpretations and analyses. Some focus on the psychological aspects, exploring the themes of madness, mental illness, and the fragility of the human psyche. Others emphasize the symbolic elements, highlighting the interconnectedness of the house and its inhabitants, and the allegorical representation of decay and death. The story's lasting impact lies in its exploration of universal themes—the fragility of life, the inevitability of death, and the power of the human mind—presented in a uniquely unsettling and artistically masterful way. It has inspired countless works of art, literature, and film, cementing its place as a cornerstone of Gothic literature.

VI. A Detailed Outline of "The Fall of the House of Usher" Analysis

Name: Deconstructing Poe's Masterpiece: A Comprehensive Analysis of "The Fall of the House of Usher"

Outline:

Introduction: Brief overview of the story and the analysis's scope.

Chapter 1: The Gothic Setting: Analyzing the symbolism of the house and its surroundings.

Chapter 2: Roderick Usher's Psychological Profile: Examining his hypersensitivity, madness, and artistic expression.

Chapter 3: The Twinned Fate: Exploring the complex relationship between Roderick and Madeline Usher.

Chapter 4: Poe's Literary Craftsmanship: Discussing narrative techniques, imagery, and symbolism.

Chapter 5: Themes and Interpretations: Analyzing the story's recurring themes and various interpretations.

Chapter 6: Legacy and Influence: Exploring the story's enduring impact on literature and popular culture.

Conclusion: Summarizing the key findings and offering a final reflection.

VII. Expanded Analysis Based on the Outline:

Each chapter in the above outline would be expanded upon in a detailed manner, similar to the sections already provided in this blog post. Each section would delve deeper into specific aspects of the story, providing detailed textual evidence and critical analysis to support the claims. For instance, Chapter 1 would delve extensively into the symbolism of the tarn, the cracks in the walls, and the overall architectural decay. Chapter 2 would analyze specific passages detailing Roderick's heightened senses and his artistic creations, linking them to his psychological state. The subsequent chapters would follow a similar format, providing a comprehensive and in-depth analysis of the story's various elements.

VIII. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the main theme of "The Fall of the House of Usher"? The main themes include the fragility of the human psyche, the inevitability of death, the destructive power of hereditary illness, and the interconnectedness of mind and body.
1. What is the significance of the house in the story? The house symbolizes the physical and psychological decay of the Usher family, mirroring their internal disintegration.
1. What is Roderick Usher's illness? Roderick suffers from a combination of physical and mental ailments, including a heightened sensitivity to sensory stimuli and a debilitating nervous condition. The exact nature of his illness remains ambiguous, adding to the story's unsettling atmosphere.
1. What is the relationship between Roderick and Madeline? They are twins with an intensely close, almost telepathic, relationship, suggesting both dependence and a disturbing level of familial intimacy.
1. Is there incest implied in the relationship between Roderick and Madeline? The story hints at an incestuous relationship, adding to the overall sense of psychological disturbance and familial dysfunction.

1. What literary devices does Poe employ in "The Fall of the House of Usher"? Poe utilizes vivid imagery, symbolism, foreshadowing, first-person narration, and carefully controlled pacing to create a uniquely unsettling atmosphere.
1. What is the significance of the story's ending? The ending, with the collapse of the house and the deaths of Roderick and Madeline, emphasizes the complete destruction of the Usher lineage and the overwhelming power of decay and death.
1. How does the story contribute to the Gothic genre? The story exemplifies the gothic genre through its use of a decaying setting, elements of horror and suspense, exploration of madness, and a focus on death and decay.
1. What is the lasting impact of "The Fall of the House of Usher"? The story's exploration of universal themes and its masterful use of literary devices have cemented its place as a cornerstone of Gothic literature and continue to inspire artists and writers today.

IX. Related Articles:

1. Poe's Use of Symbolism in "The Fall of the House of Usher": A deep dive into the symbolic meaning of the house, the tarn, and other key elements.
1. Psychological Analysis of Roderick Usher: Examining his mental state and the causes of his decline.
1. The Gothic Elements in "The Fall of the House of Usher": A detailed exploration of the story's contribution to the Gothic literary tradition.

1. The Narrator's Role in "The Fall of the House of Usher": Analyzing the narrator's perspective and its impact on the story's overall effect.

1. Comparing "The Fall of the House of Usher" to other Poe works: A comparative analysis of themes and techniques across Poe's oeuvre.

1. Film Adaptations of "The Fall of the House of Usher": A review of various film and theatrical interpretations of the story.

1. The Influence of "The Fall of the House of Usher" on Modern Horror: Examining its lasting influence on the horror genre.

1. Literary Criticism of "The Fall of the House of Usher": A survey of critical essays and interpretations of the story.

1. The Use of Foreshadowing in "The Fall of the House of Usher": An in-depth analysis of how Poe utilizes foreshadowing to build suspense and anticipate the story's tragic outcome.

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Unabridged (100% Original content) Font adjustments & biography included Illustrated About The
Fall Of The House Of Usher: By Edgar Allan Poe The story begins with the unnamed narrator

arriving at the house of his friend, Roderick Usher, having received a letter from him in a distant part of the country complaining of an illness and asking for his help. As he arrives, the narrator notes a thin crack extending from the roof, down the front of the building and into the lake. Although Poe wrote this short story before the invention of modern psychological science, Roderick's condition can be described according to its terminology. It includes a form of sensory overload known as hyperesthesia (hypersensitivity to textures, light, sounds, smells and tastes), hypochondria (an excessive preoccupation or worry about having a serious illness) and acute anxiety. It is revealed that Roderick's twin sister, Madeline, is also ill and falls into cataleptic, deathlike trances. The narrator is impressed with Roderick's paintings, and attempts to cheer him by reading with him and listening to his improvised musical compositions on the guitar. Roderick sings *The Haunted Palace*, then tells the narrator that he believes the house he lives in to be alive, and that this sentience arises from the arrangement of the masonry and vegetation surrounding it.

the fall of house of usher analysis: *The Fall* Bethany Griffin, 2014-10-07 Madeline Usher has been buried alive. The doomed heroine comes to the fore in this eerie reimaging of Edgar Allan Poe's classic short story *The Fall of the House of Usher*. Gothic, moody, and suspenseful from beginning to end, *The Fall* is literary horror for fans of *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* and *Asylum*. Madeline awakes in a coffin. And she was put there by her own twin brother. But how did it come to this? In short, non-chronological chapters, Bethany Griffin masterfully spins a haunting and powerful tale of this tragic heroine and the curse on the Usher family. The house itself is alive, and it will never let Madeline escape, driving her to madness just as it has all of her ancestors. But she won't let it have her brother, Roderick. She'll do everything in her power to save him—and try to save herself—even if it means bringing the house down around them. With a sinister, gothic atmosphere and relentless tension to rival Poe himself, Bethany Griffin creates a house of horrors and introduces a whole new point of view on a timeless classic. *Kirkus Reviews* praised it in a starred review as A standout take on the classic haunted-house tale replete with surprises around every shadowy corner.

the fall of house of usher analysis: *There and Back Again* Sean Astin, Joe Layden, 2013-11-05 The fascinating memoir of a Hollywood life and an inside look at a life-changing role and the groundbreaking *Lord of the Rings* films that captured the imagination of movie fans everywhere. The *Lord of the Rings* is one of the most successful film franchises in cinematic history. Winner of a record eleven Academy Awards--a clean sweep--and breaking box office records worldwide, the trilogy is a breathtaking cinematic achievement and beloved by fans everywhere. For Sean Astin, a Hollywood child (his mother is Patty Duke and stepfather is John Astin) who made his feature film debut at 13 in the 1980s classic *The Goonies* and played the title role in *Rudy*, the call from his agent about the role of Samwise Gamgee couldn't have come at a better time. His career was at a low point and choice roles were hard to come by. But his 18-month experience in New Zealand with director Peter Jackson and the cast and crew of *The Lord of the Rings* films would be more than simply a dream-come-true--it would prove to be the challenge of a lifetime. *There and Back Again: An Actor's Tale* is the complete memoir of Sean Astin, from his early days in Hollywood to the role that changed his life. Though much has been written about the making of the films, including the techniques and artistry employed to bring Tolkien's vision of life and the various relationships between castmembers, the real story of what took place on the set, the harrowing ordeals of the actors and the unspoken controversy and backstage dealings have never been told. Sean's experience and candid account of his time filming in New Zealand is unparalleled. More than a companion guide to the Ring films, *There and Back Again* filled with stories from the set and of the actors involved that have never been revealed before and is an eye-opening look from a Hollywood veteran at the blood, sweat and tears that went into the making of one of the most ambitious films of all time.

the fall of house of usher analysis: *Where Is Here* Joyce Carol Oates, 1993-09-21 In dramatic, tightly focused narratives charged with tension, menace, and the shock of the unexpected, *Where Is Here?* examines a world in which ordinary life is electrified by the potential for sudden

change. Domestic violence, fear and abandonment and betrayal, and the obsession with loss shadow the characters that inhabit these startling, intriguing stories. With the precision and intensity that are the hallmarks of her remarkable talent, Joyce Carol Oates explores the unexpected turns of events that leave people vulnerable and struggling to puzzle out the consequences of their abrupt reversals of fortune. As in the title story, in which a married couple find their controlled life irrevocably altered by a stranger's visit, the fiction in this new collection is punctuated again and again by mysterious, perhaps unanswerable, questions: Out of what does our life arise? Out of what does our consciousness arise? Why are we here? Where is here? Like the questions they pose, these tales -- at once elusive and direct -- unfold with the enigmatic twists of riddles and, often, the blunt shock of tragedy. Where is Here? is the work of a master practitioner of the short story.

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the fall of house of usher analysis: Edgar Allen Poe, The Fall of the House of Usher. An Analysis Nicholas Liberto, 2013-11-14 Essay from the year 2010 in the subject Didactics for the subject English - Literature, Works, grade: 89.3, D'Youville College, language: English, abstract: A short analysis of the literary elements contained in Edgar Allen Poe's The Fall of the House of Usher.

the fall of house of usher analysis: Rhythm of War Brandon Sanderson, 2020-11-17 An instant #1 New York Times Bestseller and a USA Today and Indie Bestseller! The Stormlight Archive saga continues in Rhythm of War, the eagerly awaited sequel to Brandon Sanderson's #1 New York Times bestselling Oathbringer, from an epic fantasy writer at the top of his game. After forming a coalition of human resistance against the enemy invasion, Dalinar Kholin and his Knights Radiant have spent a year fighting a protracted, brutal war. Neither side has gained an advantage, and the threat of a betrayal by Dalinar's crafty ally Taravangian looms over every strategic move. Now, as new technological discoveries by Navani Kholin's scholars begin to change the face of the war, the enemy prepares a bold and dangerous operation. The arms race that follows will challenge the very core of the Radiant ideals, and potentially reveal the secrets of the ancient tower that was once the heart of their strength. At the same time that Kaladin Stormblessed must come to grips with his changing role within the Knights Radiant, his Windrunners face their own problem: As more and more deadly enemy Fused awaken to wage war, no more honorspren are willing to bond with humans to increase the number of Radiants. Adolin and Shallan must lead the coalition's envoy to

the honorspren stronghold of Lasting Integrity and either convince the spren to join the cause against the evil god Odium, or personally face the storm of failure. Other Tor books by Brandon Sanderson The Cosmere The Stormlight Archive ● The Way of Kings ● Words of Radiance ● Edgedancer (novella) ● Oathbringer ● Dawnshard (novella) ● Rhythm of War The Mistborn Saga The Original Trilogy ● Mistborn ● The Well of Ascension ● The Hero of Ages Wax and Wayne ● The Alloy of Law ● Shadows of Self ● The Bands of Mourning ● The Lost Metal Other Cosmere novels ● Elantris ● Warbreaker ● Tress of the Emerald Sea ● Yumi and the Nightmare Painter ● The Sunlit Man Collection ● Arcanum Unbounded: The Cosmere Collection The Alcatraz vs. the Evil Librarians series ● Alcatraz vs. the Evil Librarians ● The Scrivener's Bones ● The Knights of Crystallia ● The Shattered Lens ● The Dark Talent ● Bastille vs. the Evil Librarians (with Janci Patterson) Other novels ● The Rithmatist ● Legion: The Many Lives of Stephen Leeds ● The Frugal Wizard's Handbook for Surviving Medieval England Other books by Brandon Sanderson The Reckoners ● Steelheart ● Firefight ● Calamity Skyward ● Skyward ● Starsight ● Cytonic ● Skyward Flight (with Janci Patterson) ● Defiant At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

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the fall of house of usher analysis: The Masque of the Red Death Edgar Allan Poe, 2020-08-01 The Masque of the Red Death, originally published as The Mask of the Red Death: A Fantasy, is an 1842 short story by American writer Edgar Allan Poe. The story follows Prince Prospero's attempts to avoid a dangerous plague, known as the Red Death, by hiding in his abbey. He, along with many other wealthy nobles, hosts a masquerade ball within seven rooms of the abbey, each decorated with a different color. In the midst of their revelry, a mysterious figure disguised as a Red Death victim enters and makes his way through each of the rooms. Prospero dies after confronting this stranger, whose costume proves to contain nothing tangible inside it; the guests also die in turn. Poe's story follows many traditions of Gothic fiction and is often analyzed as an allegory about the inevitability of death, though some critics advise against an allegorical reading. Many different interpretations have been presented, as well as attempts to identify the true nature of the titular disease. The story was first published in May 1842 in Graham's Magazine and has since been adapted in many different forms, including a 1964 film starring Vincent Price.

the fall of house of usher analysis: **MS. Found in a Bottle** Edgar Allan Poe, 2020-08-26 A representative of Poe's tales of the sea, Ms. Found in a Bottle follows the writer's infatuation with the horrific and unknown forces around us. An avid reader just like his creator, the narrator finds solace within books and ancient lore, thus testing the limits of one's imagination, and at the same time paving the road for further exploration of the unknown. Poe's otherworldly narrative could easily fall in the same category as the sea voyages and tribulations described by later authors such as Herman Melville and Joseph Conrad. Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849) was an American poet, author, and literary critic. Most famous for his poetry, short stories, and tales of the supernatural, mysterious, and macabre, he is also regarded as the inventor of the detective genre and a contributor to the emergence of science fiction, dark romanticism, and weird fiction. His most famous works include The Raven (1945), The Black Cat (1943), and The Gold-Bug (1843).

the fall of house of usher analysis: *The Entail* E.T.A. Hoffmann, 2022-06-21 'The Entail'

(1885) is a 'weird tale' written by the German Romantic author E. T. A. Hoffmann, most famous for his novella 'The Nutcracker and the Mouse King' (1816) which inspired Tchaikovsky's opera 'The Nutcracker'. This classic short horror story tells of a castle haunted by the ghost of a murderer. It is perfect for fans of horror and fantasy fiction and the authors H. P. Lovecraft and Neil Gaiman. Ernst Theodor Wilhelm Hoffmann (1776-1822), better known as E. T. A. Hoffmann, was a German Romantic author of fantasy and gothic horror. He was also a composer, music critic, draftsman and caricaturist. Hoffmann's stories inspired several famous operatic composers, including Richard Wagner, Jacques Offenbach and Léo Delibes. He is also the author of the novella 'The Nutcracker and the Mouse King', on which Tchaikovsky's famous ballet, 'The Nutcracker' is based. The story also inspired the film 'The Nutcracker and the Four Realms' (2018), starring Keira Knightley, Morgan Freeman, Helen Mirren.

the fall of house of usher analysis: The Cask of Amontillado Edgar Allan Poe, 2008 After enduring many injuries of the noble Fortunato, Montressor executes the perfect revenge.

the fall of house of usher analysis: *Sister of Darkness* R. H. Stavis, Sarah Durand, 2018-02-06 One woman alone has the power to destroy our demons We may not be able to see them, but they're always there. Smoke and shadows, ghoulish features or lifelike forms, there are the demons, or what Rachel Stavis calls "entities," that float around us, or even attach themselves to our bodies, feeding off our fears and our negative energy. As the world's only nondenominational exorcist, Rachel has found herself at the crux of the spiritual crossroads of thousands of clients—all of whom she's been able to save by ridding them of their spiritual baggage, and getting at the root causes of their low frequency at the same time. Stavis realized her gift as young child, but for years she pushed it away, wishing for it to disappear as her mother dismissed it as a call for attention, the lies of a schoolgirl. After years of denying her gift for communicating with the spirit world, she fearlessly turned what she once regarded as a curse into a blessing to help those in need. Stavis has cleansed thousands of tormented people, from small children to musicians, politicians, and everyone in between, quietly performing her work in obscurity, until now. In *Sister of Darkness*, Rachel Stavis takes us on a journey into an unseen world, describes the diverse range of entities that surround us, the Spirit Guides and Ancient Ancestors that come to her aid to reveal the root causes of your pain, and what you can do to protect yourself from creating a hospitable environment. A unique look at demonology removed from religious dogma, *Sister of Darkness* is the true story of Rachel's journey to becoming an exorcist. Chronicling some of her most extreme and interesting cleansings, the hows and the whys of what she does, and stories of danger and of triumph, Stavis creates a world that is at times frightening, eye-opening, and utterly enthralling.

the fall of house of usher analysis: Words of Radiance Brandon Sanderson, 2014-03-04 From #1 New York Times bestselling author Brandon Sanderson, *Words of Radiance*, Book Two of the *Stormlight Archive*, continues the immersive fantasy epic that *The Way of Kings* began. Expected by his enemies to die the miserable death of a military slave, Kaladin survived to be given command of the royal bodyguards, a controversial first for a low-status darkeyes. Now he must protect the king and Dalinar from every common peril as well as the distinctly uncommon threat of the Assassin, all while secretly struggling to master remarkable new powers that are somehow linked to his honorspren, Syl. The Assassin, Szeth, is active again, murdering rulers all over the world of Roshar, using his baffling powers to thwart every bodyguard and elude all pursuers. Among his prime targets is Highprince Dalinar, widely considered the power behind the Alethi throne. His leading role in the war would seem reason enough, but the Assassin's master has much deeper motives. Brilliant but troubled Shallan strives along a parallel path. Despite being broken in ways she refuses to acknowledge, she bears a terrible burden: to somehow prevent the return of the legendary Voidbringers and the civilization-ending Desolation that will follow. The secrets she needs can be found at the Shattered Plains, but just arriving there proves more difficult than she could have imagined. Meanwhile, at the heart of the Shattered Plains, the Parshendi are making an epochal decision. Hard pressed by years of Alethi attacks, their numbers ever shrinking, they are convinced by their war leader, Eshonai, to risk everything on a desperate gamble with the very supernatural

forces they once fled. The possible consequences for Parshendi and humans alike, indeed, for Roshar itself, are as dangerous as they are incalculable. Other Tor books by Brandon Sanderson The Cosmere The Stormlight Archive ● The Way of Kings ● Words of Radiance ● Edgedancer (novella) ● Oathbringer ● Dawnshard (novella) ● Rhythm of War The Mistborn Saga The Original Trilogy ● Mistborn ● The Well of Ascension ● The Hero of Ages Wax and Wayne ● The Alloy of Law ● Shadows of Self ● The Bands of Mourning ● The Lost Metal Other Cosmere novels ● Elantris ● Warbreaker ● Tress of the Emerald Sea ● Yumi and the Nightmare Painter ● The Sunlit Man Collection ● Arcanum Unbounded: The Cosmere Collection The Alcatraz vs. the Evil Librarians series ● Alcatraz vs. the Evil Librarians ● The Scrivener's Bones ● The Knights of Crystallia ● The Shattered Lens ● The Dark Talent ● Bastille vs. the Evil Librarians (with Janci Patterson) Other novels ● The Rithmatist ● Legion: The Many Lives of Stephen Leeds ● The Frugal Wizard's Handbook for Surviving Medieval England Other books by Brandon Sanderson The Reckoners ● Steelheart ● Firefight ● Calamity Skyward ● Skyward ● Starsight ● Cytonic ● Skyward Flight (with Janci Patterson) ● Defiant At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

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the fall of house of usher analysis: That Evening Sun William Faulkner, 2013-03-19 Quentin Compson narrates the story of his family's African-American washerwoman, Nancy, who fears that her husband will murder her because she is pregnant with a white-man's child. The events in the story are witnessed by a young Quentin and his two siblings, Caddy and Jason, who do not fully understand the adult world of race and class conflict that they are privy to. Although primarily known for his novels, William Faulkner wrote in a variety of formats, including plays, poetry, essays, screenplays, and short stories, many of which are highly acclaimed and anthologized. Like his novels, many of Faulkner's short stories are set in fictional Yoknapatawapha County, a setting inspired by Lafayette County, where Faulkner spent most of his life. His first short story collection, These 13 (1931), includes many of his most frequently anthologized stories, including A Rose for Emily, Red Leaves and That Evening Sun. HarperCollins brings great works of literature to life in digital format, upholding the highest standards in ebook production and celebrating reading in all its forms. Look for more titles in the HarperCollins short-stories collection to build your digital library.

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the fall of house of usher analysis: The Fallen Narrator in 'The Fall of the House of Usher' Bianca Müller, 2009-12 Seminar paper from the year 2009 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 1,0, University of Wuppertal, course: Grundlagenseminar B: Amerikanische Literaturwissenschaft, language: English, abstract: With close reference to Edgar Allan Poe's short story, The Fall of the House of Usher, the interpretation will be put forward that the tale's key issue is not, as the title suggests, the collapse of the family mansion, but the 'fall, ' with its connotation of 'failure, ' of the narrator's rational ability to account for his experiences at the Ushers'. In order to justify this reading of the story, the narrator's identity and the purpose of his stay at the House of Usher will be clarified first. It will be illustrated that rationality is the narrator's key method of analysis used to analyze the observations he makes at the protagonist's home. Additionally, instances of the narrator's frustration to rely upon scientific knowledge will be

demonstrated. After having paid attention to the growing psychological impact of the proceeding events on the narrator, the question of which message Poe wants to portray to the reader will be addressed.

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