“The Tell-Tale Heart”

Edgar Allan Poe

Directed Listening-Thinking Activity

For this activity, we will be reading and listening to Poe’s famous short story. As we read, we will stop periodically to make predictions. You will need to copy the question from each slide on your own paper. Then you will need to answer the question in complete sentences! Remember to restate the question in your answer.
Vocabulary

• **Foresight**: Thoughtful regard for the future
• **Dissimulation**: Hidden under a false appearance
• **Vexed**: Troubled, distressed, caused agitation
• **Sagacity**: Sound judgment
• **Hearkening**: Giving careful attention
• **Awe**: A mixed feeling of reverence, fear, and wonder
• **Distinctness**: Unmistakable, clearly defined
• **Over-acuteness**: Very keen
• **Concealment**: A means of hiding
• **Waned**: To grow gradually less
• **Scantlings**: Small quantities or amounts
• **Suavity**: Gracefulness, politeness
• **Bade**: Urged, compelled
• **Audacity**: Bold courage, daring
• **Reposed**: To lay at rest
• **Derision**: Contempt, ridicule
Based on the title, predict what you think this story will be about.
Who do you think the narrator is speaking to?
Write down what you think the author means by the “work.”
Why does the narrator treat the old man so well in the mornings?
Why doesn’t the narrator leave when he realizes the old man is awake?
Would you like to change your original prediction of what this story is about? If so, what would you change? If not, why?
Whose heart do you think the narrator is hearing?
In one sentence, predict the ending of the story.
Who is at the door?
What is the noise?
What is the narrator feeling right now?
Were any of your original predictions about the story correct? Explain.