

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

The Bells –Edgar Allan Poe



Directions: *Answer the following questions, in complete sentences, using support from the text.*

1. Identify the bells in each of the stanzas as well as what it foretells/how it makes people feel. You may list it or create a chart.

2.. How do the bells in stanza 2 differ from the bells in stanza 1? In what way are they similar?

3. What kind of sound is produced by the bells in stanza 3? How does that differ from the sounds made by the bells in stanzas 1 and 2? What different feelings do these sounds produce?

4. Note the difference in stanza lengths for the different types of bells. Which stanzas are longer? Why is that so?

Part III: Critical Thinking

Directions: *Answer the following questions, in complete sentences, using support from the text.*

1. What onomatopoeic words refer to the sound of the bells? What phrases throughout the poem sound like the singing of bells? Which words sound like small, light bells? Which words sound like large, heavy bells?

2. The word *bells* is repeated many times within each stanza. What other words and phrases are repeated? What two line phrase is repeated twice exactly and a third time, slightly altered in stanza 4? Where else in the poem is this line repeated?

3. Examples of alliteration in the poem include the repeated *w* and *m* sounds in “What a world of merriment their melody foretells!” Find five other examples of alliteration in the poem. Try reading the alliterative lines aloud. What effect does the alliteration have?

4. Identify an example of assonance in each stanza.