



CAN YOU OUTSMART EDGAR ALLAN POE?

5 mysteries. 5 clues. One notoriously tricky author.

Poe loved hoaxes, codes, unreliable narrators and readers willing to play along. How suspicious are you?

1 WOULD YOU TRUST THIS MAN?

A narrator insists he is perfectly sane, calmly describes a murder, then hears the dead man's heart beating. What should make you suspicious?

A. His confidence B. His details C. His need to prove his sanity

2 HOAX OR TRUTH?

In 1844 Poe reported that a man had crossed the Atlantic in a balloon. What really happened?

A. It happened B. Poe invented it C. Poe repeated a false report

3 CRACK POE'S CODE

Move each letter BACK one place in the alphabet: QPF XBT B USJDLTUFS

Your answer: _____

4 WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS POE?

Raven. Skull. Candle. Crumbling mansion. Gloom. What's missing?

A. Nothing B. The funny, puzzling, hoax-loving Poe

5 THE MOST DANGEROUS QUESTION

A Poe narrator tells you something extraordinary. What's the best response?

A. Believe him B. Assume madness C. Ask why Poe wants you to believe him

OPEN THE CASE FILE - ANSWERS

1: C - A reliable narrator rarely needs to campaign for his own sanity.

2: B - Poe's famous Balloon-Hoax dressed fiction up as news.

3: POE WAS A TRICKSTER. 4: B - Horror is only part of Poe. 5: C - Always ask why.

Want another case?

More clues, puzzles and Poe mysteries are waiting at Secrets of Poe.

Susan Amper | Poe scholar, author & literary detective

Poe left clues. I followed them. Now it's your turn.