

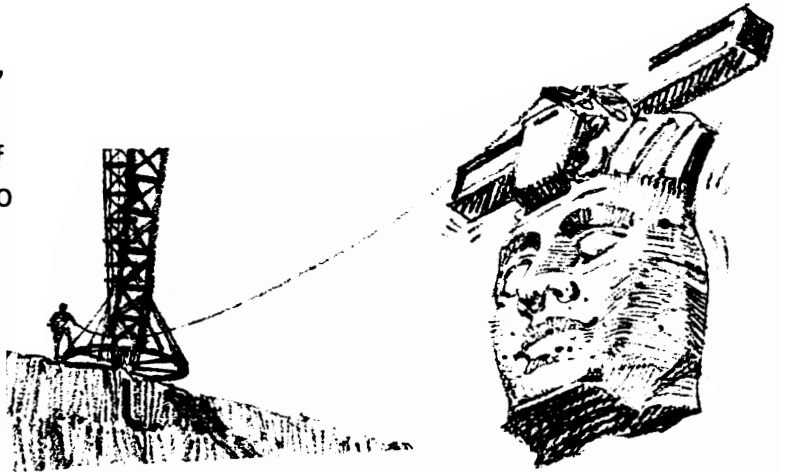
Moving a Monument

The Nile River is often called the “lifeline” of Egypt. It has long been a means of transportation for Egyptians and a source of irrigation for their farm lands. But it has also caused some problems. Each year, after heavy spring rains, the Nile floods.

To control the summer floods, a huge dam, the Aswan High Dam, was suggested. One thing stood in the way. The huge lake which would form behind the dam would completely cover an important ancient temple with water.

The temple was built on the banks of the Nile by Rameses II, a powerful Pharaoh of early Egypt, to honor Egyptian gods. The inside halls of this monument were cut into the sandstone mountain. Across the front were four gigantic stone figures of Rameses, each 65 feet tall.

An Egyptian sculptor thought of a way to save the temple. People from all over the world gave money so that this monument



could be moved out of the path of the new lake. The stone temple was sawed into thousands of blocks. Each block was numbered and then lifted by crane from its original place. The blocks were put back together several hundred yards away. It took 2000 workers and almost seven years to put the blocks back together. Now the dam is finished, the lake is deep, and the four giants are safe and dry in their new home.

Main Idea

1. This story is mainly about
 - a. the life and times of ancient Egypt.
 - b. saving an important work of art.
 - c. the four battles of Rameses II.

Significant Details

2. What did engineers plan to build on the Nile River?
 - a. a temple
 - b. a statue
 - c. a dam
3. How long did it take to rebuild the monument?
 - a. nearly a year
 - b. 7 years
 - c. 7 months
4. Why is the Nile called Egypt's lifeline?
 - a. Egyptians use it for transportation and irrigation.
 - b. Many Egyptians are born there.
 - c. It is the home of the gods.

Context Clues

5. *Irrigation* for crops
 - a. provides water so they can grow.
 - b. keeps weeds from choking plants.
 - c. is a new method of night gardening.
6. Rameses was a *Pharaoh* of early Egypt.
 - a. god
 - b. worker
 - c. king

Drawing Conclusions

7. People from all over the world want to save historic treasures. How can you tell this is true?
 - a. They allowed the temple to be sawed into pieces.
 - b. They gave money so that a temple could be saved.
 - c. They like to ride on the Nile River.

Edgar Allan Poe

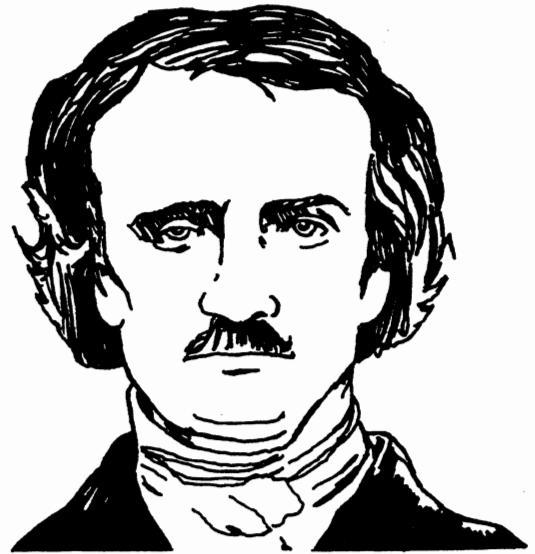
Edgar Allan Poe was born in Boston in 1809. His parents were both actors and probably expected Edgar to join them on the stage. But the course of Edgar's life changed when his father left the family and his mother died before Edgar reached the age of three.

Young Edgar was taken in by a businessman from Virginia, John Allan, and his wife. The Allans raised Edgar and sent him to private schools. When he was old enough, they enrolled him in college at the University of Virginia. Instead of studying at college, Edgar began drinking and gambling. John Allan was disappointed in Edgar and refused to pay his debts. Edgar was forced to drop out of school.

Edgar left Virginia and the Allan family and moved back to his hometown, Boston. There he published his first piece of writing, *Tamerlane and Other Poems*, in 1827. It was then that Poe knew he had a talent for writing.

Edgar soon married, but his young wife became very ill. In order to pay for his wife's doctor bills, Edgar took several jobs as an editor of newspapers and magazines, but continued to write. He published several volumes of poetry and earned recognition as a skilled poet. His descriptive images and perfect meter made his poems outstanding pieces of writing that are still read today.

Although Poe loved poetry, he realized that publishing short stories would earn him more money. Poe became the first writer to publish detective stories. "The Gold Bug" was a story



about searching for buried treasure. Poe's mystery and horror stories were very popular, too. "The Fall of the House of Usher," "The Tell-Tale Heart," and "Pit and the Pendulum" both frightened and excited readers. "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" and "The Mystery of Marie Roget" are examples of Poe's well-developed plots with unusual twists that keep the reader in suspense until the end of the story.

Poe's work is still enjoyed today. Even though Edgar Allan Poe's life seemed to be filled with sadness, his writing reflects some of the more human aspects of life. He was able to go deep into his characters' minds and make them realistic for the reader. Perhaps it is this realistic quality mixed with excitement that gives Poe's stories their longevity and lasting interest.

Main Idea

1. Edgar Allan Poe is known for his
 - a. work as an editor.
 - b. life as an actor.
 - c. stories and poems.

Significant Details

2. Poe preferred to write
 - a. poetry.
 - b. mysteries.
 - c. short stories.

Context Clues

3. Poe's stories have *longevity*.
 - a. They are very long.

- b. Their appeal lasts a long time.
- c. They are written about tall people.

Inferences

4. Poe's unusual childhood probably
 - a. influenced his writing.
 - b. made him refuse to marry.
 - c. kept him from becoming famous.

Drawing Conclusions

5. If Poe became an actor, he probably would have starred in
 - a. comedies.
 - b. Broadway musicals.
 - c. murder mysteries.

This Pharaoh Was a Woman

Hatshepsut was one of the most famous women in ancient Egypt. She was the daughter of a Pharaoh, the wife of another, and the aunt of a third. When Hatshepsut's father died, her husband succeeded him as Pharaoh, and she became Queen of Egypt. After a short time, her husband died, which left a nephew to succeed to the throne. Hatshepsut refused to accept her nephew as Pharaoh.

Hatshepsut said the boy was not of royal blood. She argued that *she* was the rightful ruler. Hatshepsut did not want to give up control of the country to a boy. So she sent her nephew away to study with Egyptian priests and seized the throne herself. Even though all the past Pharaohs had been men, Hatshepsut declared herself the new Pharaoh.

To make sure that the Egyptians would accept her as ruler, Hatshepsut dressed in her husband's tunic with its lion tail down the back. She also carried the royal scepter and wore the high double crown of Egypt.

Hatshepsut's father had been a warrior Pharaoh. He captured many tribes and

extended the boundaries of Egypt. But Hatshepsut did not want to wage wars. Instead, she hoped to extend her country's boundaries by trading. Under her rule, Egypt had a peaceful and prosperous time, the best for many years. Hatshepsut also built many temples and monuments. Some of these beautiful buildings remain today as a tribute to Egypt's only woman Pharaoh.



Main Idea

- The most important person in this story
 - is a young nephew.
 - is an Egyptian ruler.
 - is the warrior Pharaoh.

Significant Details

- Hatshepsut's crown was
 - made entirely of gold.
 - covered with lions' tails.
 - the high double crown of Egypt.
- Hatshepsut's father was a
 - warrior Pharaoh.
 - weak ruler.
 - famous sailor.

Context Clues

- A *tunic* is a
 - piece of music.
 - hat.
 - piece of clothing like a long shirt.

- Egypt was *prosperous*.
 - poor
 - wealthy and successful
 - at war

Inference

- How can you tell that Hatshepsut cared about her country?
 - She worked to keep it peaceful and prosperous.
 - She sent her nephew off to study.
 - She spent her time planning wars for Egypt.

Drawing Conclusions

- Was Hatshepsut a strong-willed woman?
 - Yes, she insisted on marrying a Pharaoh.
 - No, she did not like fighting.
 - Yes, she took the throne away from her nephew.