COMPARE MOODS
As you read, notice the words and sounds that help shape each poem's mood, or the feeling the poem creates for the reader. Then, think about what is similar about the mood of the two poems. After you read both poems, you will collaborate with a small group on a final project.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION:
What can blur the lines between what's real and what's not?

POEM
THE SONG OF WANDERING AENGUS
by W. B. Yeats
pages 137–139

POEM
by Edgar Allan Poe
pages 140–141
QUICK START

Has a friend ever told you a story about a strange or unexplained occurrence? Did it make you wonder what really happened? What reactions did the event stir in you? Discuss your reaction with the class.

ANALYZE RHYME

A poem's effect is created through sound and meaning. Poets choose their words carefully, since word choice, or diction, affects a poem's meaning and the way it sounds.

Rhyme is the repetition of sounds at the ends of words. Words rhyme when their accented vowels and the letters that follow them create identical or similar sounds.

dreary / weary more / roar chair / stare

Poets use rhyme for a number of purposes:

• to create a musical quality
• to emphasize sounds that suggest particular feelings, such as surprise or sadness
• to create rhythms, or patterns of stressed and unstressed syllables, that help convey sensory feelings, such as a sense of motion

ANALYZE RHYME SCHEME

End rhyme refers to words that rhyme at the ends of lines of poetry. A rhyme scheme is a pattern of end rhymes in a poem. A rhyme scheme is noted by assigning a letter of the alphabet, starting with a, to each end rhyme.

FROM "ELDORADO"

Gaily bedight,  
A gallant knight,  
In sunshine and in shadow,  
Had journeyed long,  
Singing a song,  
In search of Eldorado.

RHYME SCHEME

Gaily bedight, $a$  
A gallant knight, $a$  
In sunshine and in shadow, $b$  
Had journeyed long, $c$  
Singing a song, $c$  
In search of Eldorado. $b$

As you read "The Song of Wandering Aengus" and "Eldorado," think about how each authors' use of rhyme and rhyme scheme contributes to the poem's mood—the feeling the poem creates for the reader; its voice—the unique way the author uses language and expresses a human personality in the text; and its tone—the author's attitude toward the subject presented.
GET READY

ANALYZE SOUND DEVICES AND MOOD

Poets use sound devices to convey a poem's meaning and mood. Rhythm is the pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables in a line of poetry. Rhythm brings out a poem's musical qualities and helps create its mood, the feeling or atmosphere that the poet wishes to create.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sound Device</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>alliteration</td>
<td>repetition of beginning consonant sounds in words</td>
<td>“And when white moths...”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>assonance</td>
<td>repetition of vowel sounds in non-rhyming words</td>
<td>“Though I am old...”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>consonance</td>
<td>repetition of consonant sounds within and at ends of words</td>
<td>“When I had laid...”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>repetition</td>
<td>restating the same words or phrases, or the same grammatical constructions</td>
<td>“apple blossom” “apples of the moon” “apples of the sun”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ANNOTATION MODEL

As you read, note each poet's use of rhyme and sound devices. Explain how these sound devices help create the mood of the poem. In the model, you can see one reader's notes about “The Song of Wandering Aengus.”

Though I am old with wandering,
Through hollow lands and hilly lands,
I will find out where she has gone,
And kiss her lips and take her hands;

First line: alliteration
Second line: alliteration and repetition
Second and fourth lines: end rhyme

The rhymes, the sound devices, and the rhythm remind me of a simple song.
BACKGROUND

"The Song of Wandering Aengus" was inspired by Aengus, the god of love and beauty in Irish mythology. In the original myth, Aengus falls in love with a girl he has dreamed about and has lost. W. B. Yeats (1865–1939) was an Irish poet, a playwright, and a notable literary figure of the twentieth century. As a boy, Yeats visited a rural part of Ireland called Sligo where he heard stories about heroes, heroines, and magic. In Yeats's later life, this folklore influenced his poetry and drama. "The Song of Wandering Aengus" reflects this influence.

THE SONG OF WANDERING AENGUS
Poem by W. B. Yeats

PREPARE TO COMPARE
As you read, look for examples of rhyme, repetition, and other devices. Think about how the poet uses these devices to help create the poem's mood.

I went out to the hazel wood,
Because a fire was in my head,
And cut and peeled a hazel wand,
And hooked a berry to a thread;

And when white moths were on the wing,
And moth-like stars were flickering out,
I dropped the berry in a stream
And caught a little silver trout.
When I had laid it on the floor
I went to blow the fire aflame,
But something rustled on the floor,
And someone called me by my name:
It had become a glimmering girl
With apple blossom in her hair
Who called me by my name and ran
And faded through the brightening air.

Though I am old with wandering
Through hollow lands and hilly lands,
I will find out where she has gone,
And kiss her lips and take her hands;
And walk among long dappled\(^1\) grass,
And pluck till time and times are done,
The silver apples of the moon,
The golden apples of the sun.

---

\(^1\) dappled: marked with many spotted colors or light.
CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Answer these questions before moving on to the next selection.

1 Which word best describes the story told in the poem?
   A Incident
   B Quest
   C Hallucination
   D Mystery

2 Which event was most surprising to Aengus?
   F He sleepwalked into the forest.
   G Moths were all around him.
   H The fish he caught became a girl.
   J He found silver and golden apples.

3 In the line I went out to the hazel wood, the sound device used is called —
   A rhyme
   B alliteration
   C assonance
   D consonance
BACKGROUND

Edgar Allan Poe (1809–1849) was an American poet, short story writer, and literary critic. Orphaned at the age of three, he was raised by friends of his family. As a young man, Poe worked as a journalist while writing short stories and poems. Widely known for his short stories, Poe also was an influential poet. He focused a great deal on construction and style, using devices such as rhyme, alliteration, assonance, and repetition. He employs some of these devices in the poem “Eldorado.”

ELDORADO
Poem by Edgar Allan Poe

PREPARE TO COMPARE

As you read, think about the story the poem tells. Consider how the poet’s use of rhyme and repetition affects the mood of the story and helps make it more enjoyable.

Gaily bedight,
A gallant knight,
In sunshine and in shadow,
Had journeyed long,
Singing a song,
In search of Eldorado.

But he grew old—
This knight so bold—
And o’er his heart a shadow
Fell as he found
No spot of ground
That looked like Eldorado.
And, as his strength
Failed him at length,
He met a pilgrim shadow—
“Shadow,” said he,
“Where can it be—
This land of Eldorado?”

“Over the Mountains
Of the Moon,
Down the Valley of the Shadow,
Ride, boldly ride,”
The shade replied—
“If you seek for Eldorado!”

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Answer these questions before moving on to the Analyze the Text section on the following page.

1 What is the knight’s goal?
   A To travel the world
   B To please his love
   C To find Eldorado
   D To become famous

2 What sound device does the poet use in the last line of each stanza?
   F Repetition
   G Assonance
   H Consonance
   J Mood

3 What is the meaning of shadow as used in line 15?
   A Traveler
   B Knight
   C Ghost
   D Cloud
ANALYZE THE TEXT

Support your responses with evidence from the text.

1. **Summarize** What are the primary actions that take place in the three stanzas of "The Song of Wandering Aengus"?

2. **Infer** Who is the speaker—the person telling the story—in "The Song of Wandering Aengus"? How do you know?

3. **Interpret** Whom does the knight in "Eldorado" represent? What does Eldorado itself represent?

4. **Critique** Think about the words that appear at the end of each stanza of "Eldorado." How effectively do they connect to the changing mood of the poem?

5. **Analyze** The poet references a shadow in each of the four stanzas of "Eldorado." Why do you think the poet repeatedly refers to a shadow? How does the reference to the shadow change from the first stanza to the last?

RESEARCH

Over the centuries, the legend of El Dorado, the "city of gold," inspired adventurers, rulers, and others. Research where the legend of El Dorado comes from. Use what you learn to answer these questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QUESTION</th>
<th>ANSWER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Where was the lost &quot;city of gold&quot; supposedly located?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who was El Dorado, or &quot;the golden one&quot;?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why were the Spanish and other Europeans convinced that a city of gold actually existed?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did Europeans ever find El Dorado?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Connect In the final stanza, the pilgrim shadow tells the knight that Eldorado is located "Over the Mountains/Of the Moon." With a small group, discuss how your research helps you understand the knight's quest and the pilgrim shadow's response.
Collaborate & Compare

COMPARE MOODS

Both "The Song of Wandering Aengus" and "Eldorado" are poems that describe a quest, a journey in which someone searches for something desired. Although the poems share this idea, each poem creates a distinctly different mood. Mood is the general feeling, or emotional atmosphere, that a poem produces in readers. Mood in a poem is developed in several ways.

- Setting/Events—what happens and where
- Speaker—the person speaking the words to the reader
- Diction—the choice of words and images
- Sound devices—rhyme, rhythm, alliteration, assonance, consonance, and repetition

With your group, complete the chart with details from both poems.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THE SONG OF WANDERING AENGUS</th>
<th>ELDORADO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Setting/Events</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sound Devices</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ANALYZE THE TEXTS

Discuss these questions in your group.

1. Compare With your group, discuss the goals of the quest in each poem. What do these goals symbolize?

2. Interpret In both poems, the speaker notes that the person on the quest has grown old. How does age affect the quest differently in the two poems? How does it affect the mood of each poem?

3. Evaluate Both poems use several sound devices to develop mood. Which poem do you think does this more effectively? Why?

4. Critique In "The Song of Wandering Aengus," Yeats uses the image of "apples" to develop mood. In "Eldorado," Poe uses "shadow." How do these words reflect the development of mood in each poem?