Edgar Allan Poe  
1809 - 1849

“Best known for his poems and short fiction, Edgar Allan Poe deserves more credit than any other writer for the transformation of the short story from anecdote to art. He virtually created the detective story and perfected the psychological thriller. He also produced some of the most influential literary criticism of his time—important theoretical statements on poetry and the short story—and has had a worldwide influence on literature.”

http://iat.ubalt.edu/courses/old/pbds660_sp99/students/reckley/ex5/people/poe.htm

Brief Biography
- Parents died before Poe reached the age of three
- Raised by prosperous merchant John Allan
- Attended the University of Virginia and West Point
- In 1835, married Virginia Clemm, who was not yet 14 year old
- In New York City (1837), Philadelphia (1838-44), and again in New York (1844-1949), Poe sought to establish himself as a force in literary journalism, but with only moderate success.
- Mastered the forms he favored: highly musical poems and short prose narratives
- Virginia’s death in 1847 was a heavy blow to Poe
- Continued to write and lecture
- Returned to Richmond in 1849
- Found unconscious on a Baltimore street.
- Obituary: reported that Poe had died of “congestion of the brain”

Famous Works:
- “The Raven” (1845-1849)
- “Ligeia” (1838, 1845)
- “The Fall of the House of Usher” (1839, 1845)
- “The Pit and the Pendulum” (1842, 1845)
- “The Tell-Tale Heart” (1843, 1845)
- “The Cask of Amontillado” (1846)