Edgar Allan Poe is very important for the American literature. He is not only a great poet and short story writer, he is also one of the first people to write serious critical pieces. The review he wrote for Hawthorne’s Twice-Told Tales is considered to be founding text of the genre of short story. Please consider the following questions while reading the piece.

1. What title does Poe use for short story?

2. Short story evolved out of tales, sketches, epics and romances. Please find out what each term refers to.

3. What does Poe suggest about the length of a short story or a poem? Why does he suggest brevity?

4. What does he mean by “single effect”? How does it influence the production of an artistic work?

5. What does he like about Hawthorne’s book?