

# American Authors Copywork Collection

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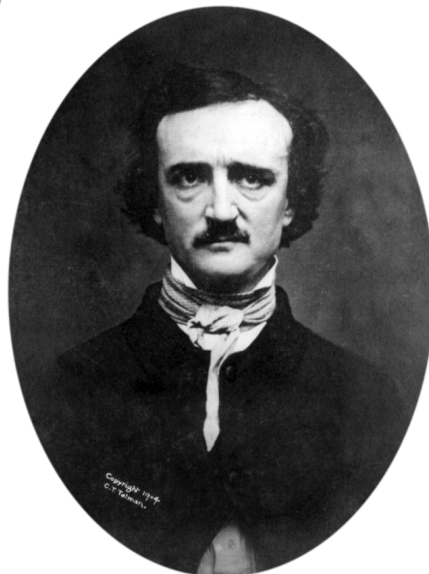
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## Edgar Allan Poe

Edgar Allan Poe was born January 19, 1809, in Boston, Massachusetts. The Book of Knowledge published by the Grolier Society in 1911, calls his poetry, "strange" and "weird." The forty years of his life were marked by tragedies and heartache. His parents died when he was a child. He struggled with drinking throughout his life. He held many jobs but struggled to find financial stability. Like any writer, his work was often rejected. He is perhaps best remembered for his poem "The Raven," which was published in 1845, and other dark works such as "The Pit and the Pendulum" and "The Tell-Tale Heart."

But did Edgar Allan Poe write anything that did not have a dark twist to it? The answer may surprise you. He also wrote humor, satire, adventure, and other types of stories. One of his lighter pieces is called "The Balloon Hoax." He published it in the *New York Sun* in 1844. It appeared in the paper to be an actual news story, but it was purely a work of fiction. In this article, Poe describes the first purported trans-Atlantic flight in a balloon. Much of the article is recounted as if from actual journal entries made by the balloon's passengers. The detail with which he describes this flight is remarkable. The copywork that follows is just an excerpt of this article (originally over 5,000 words in length). Keep in mind as you read and complete this copywork that the Wright Brothers would not fly at Kitty Hawk for another fifty-nine years.

Poe died on October 7, 1849, in Baltimore, Maryland. He was only 40 years old at the time.



# "The Balloon Hoax" (Excerpt)

## by Edgar Allan Poe

The great problem is at length solved. The air, as well as the earth and the ocean, has been subdued by science, and will become a common and convenient highway for mankind. The Atlantic has been actually crossed in a Balloon; and this too without difficulty—without any great apparent danger—with thorough control of the machine—and in the inconceivably brief period of seventy-five hours from shore to shore! By the

energy of an agent at Charleston, S.C., we are enabled to be the first to furnish the public with a detailed account of this most extraordinary voyage . . .

Every preparation likely to embarrass us, having been made over night, we commenced the inflation this morning at daybreak; but owing to a thick fog, which encumbered the folds of the silk and rendered it unmanageable, we did not get through before nearly eleven o'clock. Cut loose, then, in high

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