

Freewriting or Rehashing the Plot?

Below are examples of **freewriting** that offers insights into the text.

Freewriting Example 1:

The atmosphere of the story seems to foreshadow the internal world of Roderick—bleak and desolate. Roderick summons his friend to dispel these clouds (the internal ones). The tarn is interesting because the narrator looks at reflection/ illusion) as relief before facing the reality of the house itself, before entering the house and seeing Roderick. The physical structure of the house is distorted in the tarn—later we find out Roderick's mind is disturbed. This is an interesting connection.

Freewriting Example 2:

The shadowy form of Madeline is like the distorted view of the house in the tarn—not real, more dream-like. Poe speaks of the narrator wondering if he is dreaming. These images seem connected to each other. The next time we see Madeline she is apparently dead—all is not as it seems, again, as we see when she emerges from the tomb. Are the double images (we see her twice in the story, plus she and Roderick are twins, plus the reflection of the house and the real structure of the house) like mirrors—another reality maybe?

Below are examples of **rehashing the plot**, which is not freewriting.

Rehashing Example 1:

The narrator looks into a pool of water before entering the house of Usher. He sees the reflection of the house. He goes through corridors and finally meets with Roderick, who seems to have changed. For example, Roderick is very pale.

Rehashing Example 2:

Madeline passes through a hallway and Roderick cries because, as he informs the narrator, she is ill. Roderick becomes more depressed after seeing her. Madeline is his beloved sister. He will be the only Usher left when she dies. When we see her in the coffin, her coloring is life-like. Later, she does indeed emerge from the tomb seeking revenge upon her brother for premature entombment.