

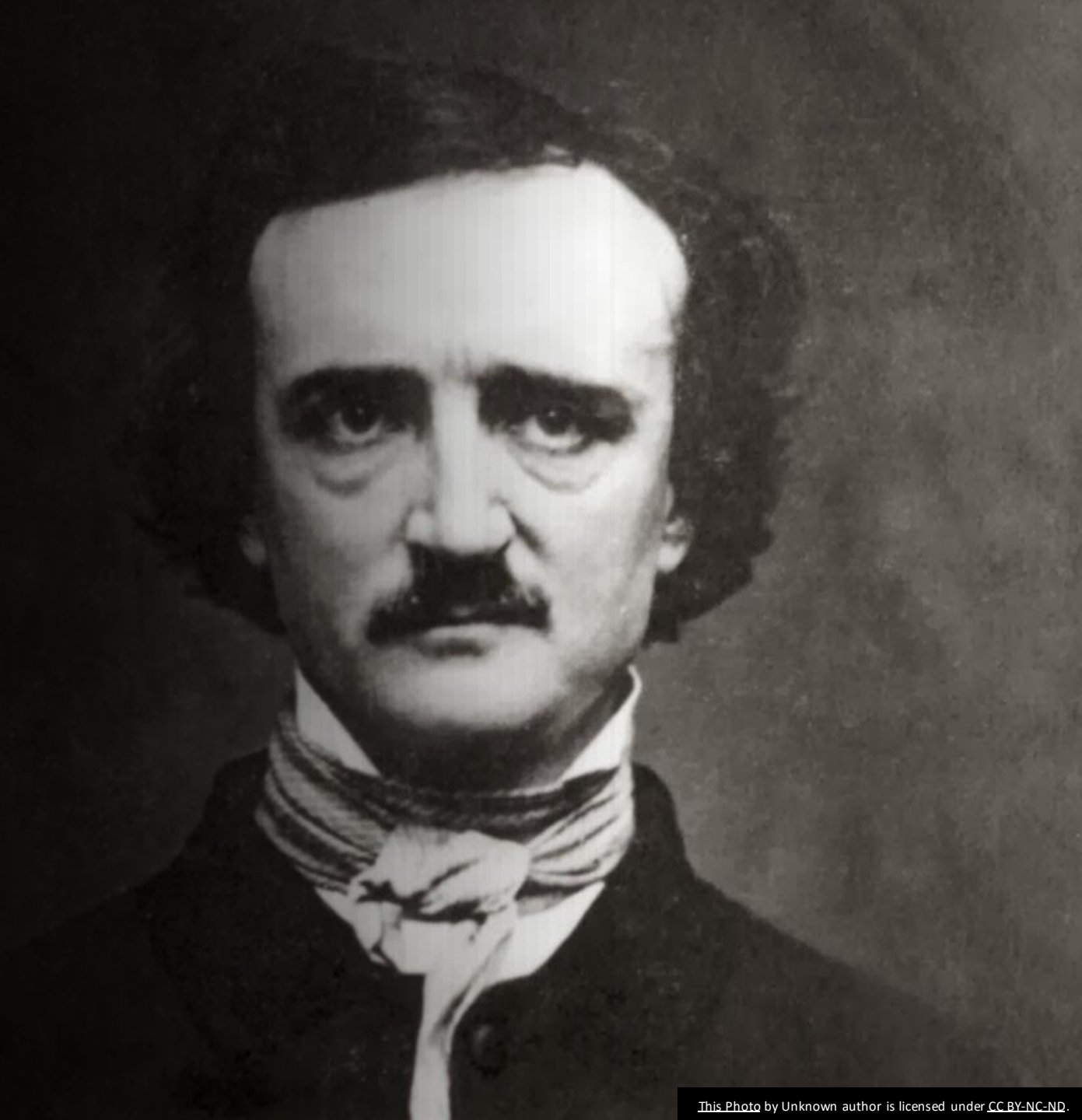


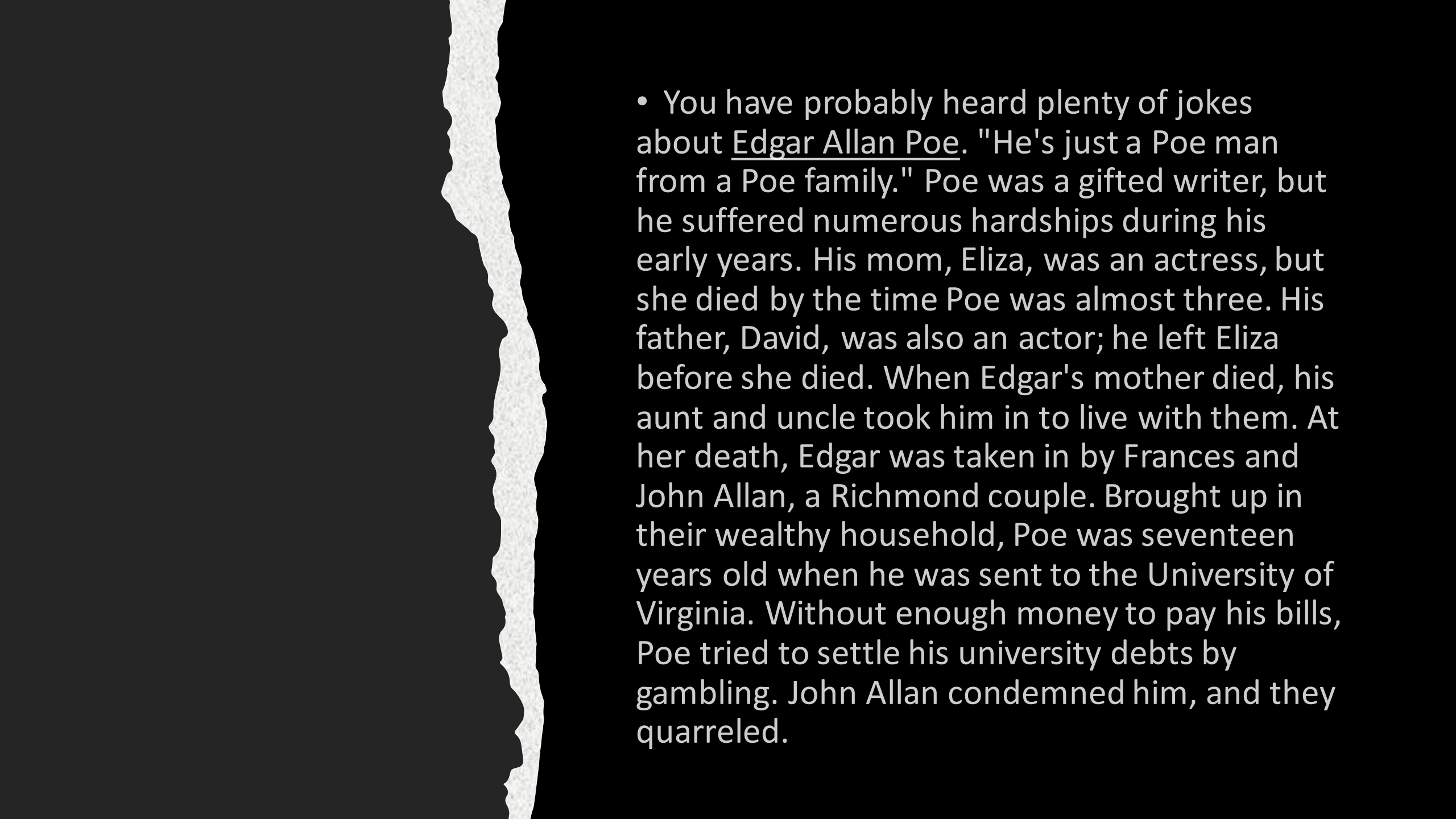
# The Godfather of Horror

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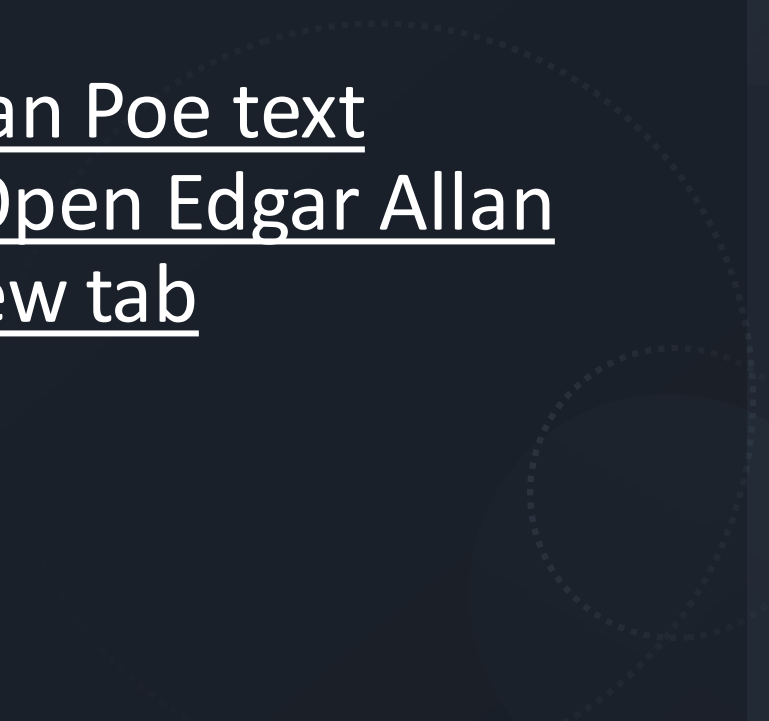

How does Romanticism reflect the  
push for a distinct American identity?

ACCESS



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- You have probably heard plenty of jokes about Edgar Allan Poe. "He's just a Poe man from a Poe family." Poe was a gifted writer, but he suffered numerous hardships during his early years. His mom, Eliza, was an actress, but she died by the time Poe was almost three. His father, David, was also an actor; he left Eliza before she died. When Edgar's mother died, his aunt and uncle took him in to live with them. At her death, Edgar was taken in by Frances and John Allan, a Richmond couple. Brought up in their wealthy household, Poe was seventeen years old when he was sent to the University of Virginia. Without enough money to pay his bills, Poe tried to settle his university debts by gambling. John Allan condemned him, and they quarreled.


- In 1827 Poe showed his independence by leaving home and joining the army. But in 1829, when Frances Allan died, Poe and his guardian briefly reunited. Poe gained admission to West Point in 1830. Known for his skill with poetry, he was also successful academically. Within six months, however, Poe was so exhausted by his duties he felt forced to resign.
- Letters to Allan from January to December of 1831 summarize his struggles. Poe felt misjudged and rejected by the person most responsible for his protection. He was desperate for support - both financially and emotionally. But the letters also show Poe's skills in self-expression and logic. Though he failed to move his guardian through the letters, such talents would later advance his literary career.
- Poe's death remains a mystery; there are many theories about the circumstances. A few days before he died, he was found deliriously roaming the Baltimore streets. He was taken to the hospital where he died on October 7, 1849.

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- Edgar Allan Poe text version | Open Edgar Allan Poe in a new tab

[Text-only version](#)

If the game below does not open, click [here](#) to play.

It's Your Turn! are optional, fun activities related to the lesson.



Do you like football? Find out how the NFL's [Baltimore Ravens](#) franchise got its name. Then, read the poem "[The Raven](#)."

- **Tasks**

- In this task, you will identify the literary techniques used by Poe in his story "[The Black Cat](#)." Use [3.04 Literary Techniques](#) to complete the task.