



ANSWERS

Whether the raven is originally a real bird or not, through the course of the poem it is developed into a symbol of evil. Poe describes the raven as coming into the room like a monarch. The words "stately," "mien," and "lord or lady" allude to royalty. The reference to a shorn crest is an allusion to the medieval tradition of shaving the head of a knight who has behaved badly, to humiliate him. All of these things link the raven to an old medieval world. The bird's repetition of the word "nevermore" ultimately makes the bird himself seem like a prophesy. The narrator wonders if he is a "devil" and describes the raven as a demon with burning eyes.