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**How We Would Know Poe**

The key to online fame is to promote yourself in a very clever way, thus presenting the opportunity to express your real talent after grasping the attention of the audience. This is demonstrated daily on Facebook, Youtube, Instagram, Twitter, and many other networks. Poe did this when he wrote a clever comment on the Instagram page of Charles Dickens after seeing that he was in his town, Richmond, VA. The comment was an invitation to lunch, and it seized Dickens attention and convinced him that he needed to be there. After meeting in person, Dickens not only lent his ear but offered personal information that changed Poe’s writing and online job status forever. Okay, lets face it! Edgar Allen Poe never had the internet, computers, or social networking online in the 1800s, but he did use the same skills to find short-lived fame and after death success.

Poe’s expressions mirrored his dark experiences throughout his entire life. The expressions were authentic, but too horrifying for his potential audience. The people of his time could not find the beauty of human death expressed in literature. The morbid stories that he wrote were based on the death of every woman that he had ever grown close to in his life starting with his mother, followed by his foster mother, his aunt, and finally his wife. It is believed that his expressions began to brew inside at an early age after watching his mother play the role of Juliet in Shakespeare’s famous tragedy. Night after night he watched her act out this role, until she finally died of a common illness among the women of that time. How was he to determine the difference between reality and performing art? How could he have portrayed a woman, living a long and healthy life, who he had never met? Poe wrote many poems and stories portraying women and death just as it had manifested in his life. His audience was not interested, and left Poe starving, until he met Dickens who would be his gateway into fame.

Charles Dickens came to Richmond, Virginia, where Poe resided. Poe invited Dickens, by letter, to have a meal with him. Dickens articulated many life experiences, including the story of his late pet bird that drank paint and died. That’s when the light bulb turned on in Poe’s creativity. He replaced the morbid woman characters in his writing with a figurative character such like “The Raven”. This led him to revising and completing his most famous piece.

Poe became famous through historic social networking, but I believe he would have done more than that in the 21st century. He would have possibly been an advocate for the women who were suffering from consumption, today known as tuberculosis, the disease that killed every one of his female family members. He would do this today by raising awareness of the illness and displaying a colored ribbon on his social networking page or blog. He would have had a vast selection from which he could have collected many other ideas. He would not have to sit face to face with anyone to get new information and later inspiration for his work. Collaboration and networking with one author made Poe the famous English author that he is recognized to be today. Imagine the effect that it could have made on his publishing if he were utilizing 21st century tools in order to collaborate, network, and spark creativity in every piece of his literacy.