

Jorge Luis Borges

“The House of Asterion”

1. What point of view is this piece?
Who is he speaking to in this narrative—an unseen character or the reader?
What possible results can come of his confessions?
2. What literary technique does Borges use in the opening of this story?
3. In what manner does the opening lines mirror E. A. Poe’s short stories?
What other similarities exist between Borges and Poe in this case?
4. Do you have sympathy for this character? Can you trust his version of events?
Is he honest with himself?
Why does Borges present Asterion as a soft spoken and polite protagonist?
5. What does paragraph three establish regarding Asterion’s characterization?
Is this Asterion’s true nature or is it an insane hallucination?
6. Is he showing tendencies of insanity or justifiable animalistic behaviors?
7. What does Asterion symbolize in this story?
8. What does Borges mean when he writes:
“The house is the same size as the world; or rather, it is the world”?
9. Is he an anti-hero or a tragic hero?
10. Why does Borges hide the closing scene when Theseus slays the Minotaur?
What does this serve?

discussion