

Scansion of “Annabel Lee” by Edgar Allan Poe

Key:

Strong stress

Medium stress

Weak stress

Some words split by dashes for readability.

- 1 It was **many** and **many** a **year ago**,
- 2 In a **kingdom by the sea**,
- 3 That a **maiden** there **lived** whom **you** may **know**
- 4 By the **name** of **Annabel Lee**;
- 5 And this **maiden** she **lived** with **no** other **thought**
- 6 Than to **love** and be **loved** by **me**.

- 7 **I** was a **child** and **she** was a **child**,
- 8 In this **kingdom by the sea**,
- 9 But we **loved** with a **love** that was **more than love**—
- 10 **I** and my **Annabel Lee**—
- 11 With a **love** that the **winged seraphs** of **Heaven**
- 12 **Coveted her** and **me**.

- 13 And **this** was the **reason** *that*, **long ago**,
- 14 In this **kingdom by the sea**,
- 15 A **wind** *blew out* of a **cloud**, **chilling**
- 16 My **beautiful Annabel Lee**;
- 17 So **that** her **highborn kinsmen** **came**
- 18 And **bore** her **away** from **me**,
- 19 To **shut** her **up** in a **sepulchre**
- 20 In this **kingdom by the sea**.

21 The **angels**, not **half** so **happy** in **Heaven**,
22 Went **envying her** and **me**:
23 *Yes!* **that** was the **reason** (as **all** men **know**,
24 In this **kingdom by** the **sea**)
25 *That* the **wind** came **out** of the **cloud** by **night**,
26 **Chilling** and **killing** my **Annabel Lee**.

27 But our **love** it was **stronger** by **far** than the **love**
28 Of **those** who were **older** than **we**—
29 Of **many** far **wiser** than **we**—
30 And **neither** the **angels** in **Heaven** **above**,
31 Nor the **demons** down **under** the **sea**,
32 Can **ever** dis-**sev**-er my **soul** from the **soul**
33 Of the **beautiful Annabel Lee**:

34 For the **moon** *nev*-er **beams**, without **bringing** me **dreams**
35 Of the **beautiful Annabel Lee**;
36 And the **stars** *nev*-er **rise**, but I **feel** the *bright* **eyes**
37 Of the **beautiful Annabel Lee**:
38 And *so*, **all** the *night*-**tide**, I lie **down** by the **side**
39 Of my **darling**—my **darling**—my **life** and my **bride**,
40 In her **sepulchre** **there** by the **sea**—
41 In her **tomb** by the **sounding sea**.