



- 5 For a whole dull, dark, and soundless autumn day, when the clouds were low in the sky, I had been riding alone through the dreary countryside. Eventually, as evening fell, I found myself within view of the melancholy House of Usher. When I saw the building, I felt a sense of gloom.

PLACES

Have you ever visited a place and suddenly felt happy or sad?

Describe how you felt. Why did this place make you feel this way?

Was it something to do with the weather, the appearance of the place, or the people who were there?

I looked at the scene before me – at the house and the simple landscape, at the bleak walls, at the vacant eye-like windows, at the rough grass, and at a few white trunks of decayed trees – with a sense of depression, like an opium addict awakening from his dream. I felt a sense of iciness and my heart felt cold and heavy. What was it that made me so nervous when I thought about the House of Usher? It was a mystery, and I could not fight against the dark thoughts that filled me.

Glossary

- **bleak:** empty, cold and depressing
- **dreary:** boring and dark; without life
- **decayed:** rotten; destroyed through age
- **dull:** not bright
- **gloom:** darkness and depression