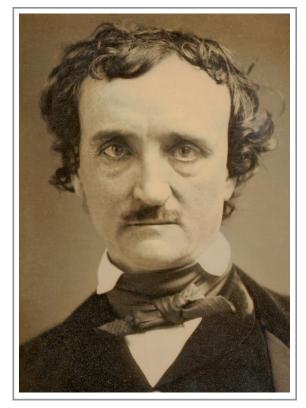**B is for Bear**

Assignment 32

- *speech night.* Keep practicing your parts for the speech night play. This coming Friday (May 19) is Speech Night!

- *phonics and reading.* Complete Lesson 32 in your *B is for Bear* textbook, volume 2.

- *handwriting.* Complete Lesson 32 of your handwriting book.

- *dictation.* Students should write out Dictation 32, found at the bottom of the online assignment page, in their dictation books. Parents should be writing misspelled words down on the dictation page and going over it.

- *book recommendation.* Here is another book recommendation: Robert Burleigh. Wendell Minor, illustrator. *If You Spent a Day with Thoreau at Walden Pond*. Henry Holt, 2012. This fully illustrated book takes a look at Henry David Thoreau's life at Walden Pond through the eyes of a child.

- *In class we went over over the biography of Poe:* 1) Edgar Allan Poe (1809–1849) was a short story mystery writer, a critic and a poet 2) Although most Americans often like to think of Edgar Allan Poe as "all American," he had a British-born mother (who was an actress) and an Irish-born father (who also acted), and for about five years, from the age of six to the age of eleven, he lived in England with his foster family, the Allans. 3) Perhaps his most famous poem is "The Raven," which in a figure describes the grief experienced after the loss of a loved one.

- Many words are repeated throughout Edgar Allan Poe's poem "The Bells." The poem becomes much more enjoyable when the reader understands the effect of this repetition of words, especially the word *bells*. Anyone who has heard church bells, especially those sounding from the belfry of old churches, will recognize the variance in sound that comes from their ringing—distinctive differences in pitch and volume that make listening to them very interesting. Readers of the poem, then, should be careful in trying to reproduce this variance in sound; otherwise, the word *bells* (represented seven times in two lines) becomes monotonous and even silly.