Possible Thesis Statements:

In 1845, Edgar Allan Poe published “The Masque of the Red Death,” a short allegorical tale that conveyed the message that no one escapes death. Approximately 117 years later, George Clayton Johnson wrote “Nothing in the Dark,” a screenplay for The Twilight Zone that also conveyed the message that no one can escape death. Although the two stories share the same theme, it seems that they have little else in common, but a closer examination, reveals that in spite of their differences, the two stories have similar characters, settings, and plots.

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Possible Topic Sentences:

First, there are many similarities and differences between the protagonists of these two stories.

In addition to the protagonists, the antagonists of “The Masque of the Red Death” and Nothing in the Dark” have many things in common, but they also possess their individual differences as well.

Finally, the settings of the two stories are similar in several ways, yet they remain quite distinct from one another as well.