

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

The Cask of Amontillado—Edgar Allan Poe



Part I

Directions: Match the following words with the correct definition.

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| 1. _____ Azure | A. To listen |
| 2. _____ Fettered | B. A person skilled or knowledgeable in a specific subject |
| 3. _____ Gait | C. Chained |
| 4. _____ Hearken | D. The color blue |
| 5. _____ Palazzo | E. A mansion |
| 6. _____ Virtuoso | |

Part II

Directions: Answer the following questions, in complete sentences, using support from the text.

1. The story begins, “The thousand injuries of Fortunato I had one as I best could, but when he ventured upon insult I vowed revenge” (pg 161). What does the narrator’s comment suggest about his reliability?
2. Describe Fortunato. What might be the underlying reason that Montresor plots against Fortunato, based on what is known about him?
3. What is ironic about Fortunato’s name?
4. Fortunato, who has been out drinking and enjoying Carnival, is wearing a clown’s hat. Symbolically, why is this an interesting—and appropriate—costume choice?
5. What evidence indicates that Montresor’s plan to kill Fortunato is premeditated?

6. An example of verbal irony is Montresor's reply to Fortunato's statement, "I shall not die of a cough" and Montresor responds, "True- true" (pg 163.) How is this exchange ironic? Give another example of verbal irony from the story.

7. Montresor pauses several times and attempts to make Fortunato turn back. What is his intention in trying to stop? Is he sincere or are his requests a part of his act?

8. Describe Montresor's coat of arms and motto. Why is the snake an appropriate image for our narrator?

9. Fortunato makes a final plea for his life crying, "For the love of God, Montresor!" (pg 166). Montresor mocks Fortunato, then waits impatiently and "in vain for a reply" (pg 166). He yells Fortunato's name, but still no response. Why does Montresor desperately want a reply?

10. Montresor relates the final stages of the murder, and he ends by saying, "For the half of a century no mortal has disturbed them. In pace requiescat!" (pg 166). Why is Montresor telling his story about Fortunato now, fifty years after the murder?