

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

The Masque of the Red Death –Edgar Allan Poe



Part I

Directions: Match the word to the closest definition.

Dissolution
Emphatic
Impetuosity

Piquancy
Spectral
Vesture

Visage
Writhe

1. _____ Charm, enthusiasm
2. _____ The face
3. _____ Death; decay
4. _____ Ghost-like
5. _____ To twist and turn as if in pain
6. _____ Striking; forceful
7. _____ Spontaneity; violence
8. _____ Clothing; a covering

Part II

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

1. What is the “Red Death”?

2. The name Prince Prospero is symbolic. What does it imply?

3. What does Prince Prospero do to avoid the plague? What does this tell you about his character?

4. How are the seven rooms for the masquerade arranged? What do the rooms possibly symbolize?

5. Describe the décor of the seven rooms. How does the last room differ from the rest? What could it symbolize?

6. The black room contains a large ebony clock which emits loud, deep chimes every hour. When the clock strikes, the orchestra stops playing, and among the guests “it was observed that the giddiest grew pale, and the more aged and sedate passed their hands over their brows as if in confused reverie or meditation” (pg 65). What does the clock represent and why do the people react as they do?

7. How are the masqueraders described, and what do their appearances symbolize?

8. What happens when Prince Prospero attempts to deal with the masked figure?

9. What is the symbolism of Prince Prospero’s walk from the first to the last room?

10. What is the moral of this story? How does this moral tie into the theme?