

Close reading questions and academic vocabulary: **(TEACHER KEY)**

Textual Reference	Guiding Questions	Instructional Commentary (PART 1 – first three paragraphs)
<p>"The thousand injuries of Fortunato I had borne as I best could; but when he ventured upon insult, I vowed revenge...It is equally unredressed then the avenger fails to make himself felt as such to him who has done the wrong."</p>	<p>A <i>What does the speaker, Montresor, mean by the thousand injuries of Fortunato and a "ventured insult" that must be punished? What events have preceded the start to the story?</i></p>	<p>Poe tells us that Montresor has been harmed by Fortunato in unspecified ways for a long time. Now, he has been insulted by him. Montresor has vowed to get revenge even though he ironically tells the reader that he has a gentle soul.</p>
	<p>B <i>What does <b>impunity</b> mean?</i></p>	<p>Have students do as much work as they can from the context to determine what is meant by <i>impunity</i> here. One key meaning of <i>impunity</i> is to act without fear of retribution. This is one way in which the speaker has framed his plan for revenge as final and decisively outside the law. He has also designed the punishment so that he will not be caught.</p>
	<p>C <i>What does <b>redresser</b> mean? Why did the author select this word? How does he use it in conjunction with <b>impunity</b>?</i></p>	<p>Once again, work with students to gain as much as they can about the meaning of <i>redresser</i> from the text itself – that is, Poe uses the word in two forms: <i>redresser</i> and <i>unredressed</i>. The verb <i>redress</i> means to remedy or to set something right. Ask students: <i>How does Poe use the word to justify the necessity of his actions for revenge?</i> — He uses it to say that he must punish without feeling bad about it, "retribution overtakes its redresser," and must really hurt the person who has wronged him, "make himself felt."</p>

Lesson Plan #2 Task 1: "The Cask of Amontillado" (Teacher Key)

Textual Reference	Guiding Questions	Instructional Commentary (PART 1 – first three paragraphs)
<p>"He had a weak point... myself, and bought largely whenever I could." (Review entire paragraph in text)</p>	<p>D <i>What is significant about the Italian courtiers as they are described here? What is the "virtuoso spirit." What is Fortunato's genuine skill and weakness? Why is it significant?</i></p>	<p>Answering this question will force students to pay attention to the narrator's critique of the Italian upper class.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"enthusiasm is adopted to suit the time and opportunity- to practice imposture upon the British and Austrian millionaires" - the Italian courtiers pretend to know about a trend in order to impress rich foreigners.</li> <li>"virtuoso spirit": a genuine talent or skill. Few Italian courtiers have real skill, but Fortunato and Montresor both know about the quality and value of collectable vintage wines. Montresor will use this knowledge to trap his former friend.</li> </ol>

Text Under Discussion	Guiding Questions	Instructional Commentary (PART 2 – pages 3-4)
<p>"...one evening during the supreme madness of the carnival season."</p>	<p>E <i>What purpose does the Carnival setting serve?</i></p>	<p>Note: <a href="http://www.venetianmasksshop.com/history.htm">http://www.venetianmasksshop.com/history.htm</a> history of the Carnival. The carnival season involves chaos, revelry, and the wearing of masks. It is easy for someone to disappear without being immediately missed. Additionally, any crime committed would take longer to investigate because masks and costumes skew identities.</p>
<p>"He accosted me with excessive warmth"</p>	<p>F <i>How does Poe use connotation to create meaning here?</i></p>	<p>Have students look at the denotative definition of each word in this quote. Then look at the connotation of each word. Note that the denotation of the verb <i>accosted</i> and the connotation of <i>excessive</i> as an adjective for warmth create the overall meaning that Montresor feels attacked by the overfriendliness of someone who has wronged him. But in the next two lines, he explains he is glad to see Fortunato</p>
<p>"...pipe of Amontillado"</p>	<p>G <i>What are common</i></p>	<p>Look at the multiple meaning of words in different contexts. The word pipe can be for plumbing, smoking, or</p>

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	<p><i>uses of the word pipe?</i>  <i>What does <b>pipe</b> mean in this context?</i></p>	<p>in this case a cask or box.</p>
<p>"Luchesi cannot tell Amontillado from Sherry."</p>	<p>H <i>How does Montresor manipulate Fortunato into going to his vault?</i></p>	<p>Answering this question will force students to pay attention to the narrator's development of plot. Poe uses repeated words and phrases that foster Montresor's exploitation of Fortunato's pride and also reverse psychology.</p>

Text Under Discussion	Guiding Questions	Instructional Commentary (page 5-6)
<p>"Putting on a mask of black silk, and drawing a roquelaire closely about my person..."</p>	<p>I <i>What does the word "roquelaire" mean? Why does Poe use this word instead of "cloak"?</i></p>	<p>Have students do as much work as they can from the context to determine what is meant by <i>roquelaire</i> here. The sentence suggests that it is a noun and can be drawn or wrapped around one's body so it must be a cloak. This is an old word used in the 1600's, in which the story was set, while Poe is living in the mid 1800's.</p>
<p>"I had given them explicit orders not to stir from the house...to insure their immediate disappearance, one and all, as soon as my back was turned."</p>	<p>J <i>What is significant about the instructions Montresor gives to his</i></p>	<p>This is the narrator's way of displaying his ability to judge and manipulate different characters.</p>

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Text Under Discussion	Guiding Questions	Instructional Commentary (page 5-6)
<p>"You are rich...you are happy, as once I was. You are a man to be missed...we will go back...there is Luchesi-"</p>	<p><i>servants as part of his plan?</i></p>	
<p>"Nitre"</p>	<p>K <i>How does Montresor further manipulate Fortunato into going deeper in the vault?</i></p> <p>L <i>Why does Poe draw attention to the Nitre on the walls?</i></p>	<p>Once again, Montresor is appealing to Fortunato's pride in his paramount knowledge of wine. Additionally, he continues to use reverse psychology to make Fortunato demand to go through the vault. Montresor also subtly reinforces his loss of fortune, status, and happiness while not directly implicating Fortunato as the source.</p> <p>Nitre is a mineral that usually grows in damp caverns over a long period of time. The attention to its appearance on the wall suggests that the vault is extremely old, does not have sunshine, fresh air, or any disturbances, and is dangerous to one's health.</p>
<p>"I drink...to the buried that repose around us."/ "And I to your long life."</p> <p>"Nemo me impune lacessit"</p>	<p>M <i>Why is the toast ironic? How is foreshadowing evident?</i></p>	<p>By leading Fortunato into the vault, Montresor plans to end the life he describes as <i>long</i> in the toast. Additionally, Fortunato's toast has elements of foreshadowing because he may soon join the dead he has toasted to for the love of wine.</p>
	<p>N <i>How do the words on the coat of arms reinforce the characterization of the Montresor?</i></p>	<p>Note: the translation from Latin means "no one attacks me with impunity." He will attack those who have harmed him, as he is doing with Fortunato, without fear of retribution.</p>
Text Under Discussion	Guiding Questions	Instructional Commentary (Pages 7- 8)
<p>"A mason?"/ "A sign"/ "It is this,' I answered, producing a trowel from beneath the folds of my</p>	<p>O <i>What does the word trowel mean? What is significant</i></p>	<p>Have students do as much work as they can from the context to determine what is meant by <i>trowel</i> here. Trowel is a digging tool, like a spade. When asked for a secret "sign" that Montresor is a member of the masons, since he is not a member, he shows his trowel, which is a pun on the word mason, a member</p>

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Text Under Discussion	Guiding Questions	Instructional Commentary (Pages 7- 8)
<p><i>rouelaire.</i>"</p> <p>"Three sides of this interior crypt were still ornamented in this manner...Within the wall thus exposed by the displacing of the bones, we perceived a still interior recess...backed by one of their circumscribing walls of solid granite."</p>	<p><i>about the play on words for "trowel" in this passage?</i></p> <hr/> <p>P <i>What is evoked by the description of the niche?</i></p>	<p>the ancient secret society, and word mason, a stone mason who constructs buildings using mortar and a trowel.</p> <hr/> <p>The description lists the niche as roughly the size for a single man's coffin: "four feet deep, three feet wide, and six or seven feet high. The circumscribing walls of solid granite clearly make it impossible to escape. The piles of bones reinforce the inevitability of death.</p> <p>(Review entire paragraph in text)</p>

Text Under Discussion	Guiding Questions	Instructional Commentary (Pages 9-10)
<p>"It was not the cry of a drunken man."</p> <p>"I again paused, and holding the flambeaux over the mason-work, threw a few feeble rays upon the figure within."</p> <p>"I placed my hand upon the solid fabric of the catacombs, and felt satisfied."</p>	<p>Q <i>What is the true reason for Fortunato's cry?</i></p> <hr/> <p>R <i>What does <b>flambeaux</b> mean?</i></p> <hr/> <p>S <i>What is significant about Poe's choice of the adjectives "solid fabric" to describe the</i></p>	<p>The narrator states that the "cry" is not from being drunk, so the real reason must be realization at the truth of his imprisonment by someone he once trusted.</p> <hr/> <p>Have students do as much work as they can from the context to determine what is meant by <i>flambeaux</i> here. Consider the prefix and suffix. From the context, it is a noun that casts light on the walls, so it is a torch.</p> <hr/> <p>Once again, work with students to gain as much as they can. The denotative definitions of <i>solid</i> and <i>fabric</i> form a contradictory statement. Fabric cannot be literally solid and yet it is used here to make the tomb seem like it is worn by Fortunato. Simultaneously, the narrator is reassured by the strong nature of the stones.</p>

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Text Under Discussion	Guiding Questions	Instructional Commentary (Pages 9-10)
	<i>catacombs?</i>	
<p>"Let us be gone."/ and "for the love of God."</p> <p>"In pace requiescat"</p>	<p>T <i>What is implied by each character with these two lines?</i></p>	<p>Answering this question will force students to pay attention to the connotation of each phrase.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fortunato implies that they should leave the tomb, because it was all a jest while Montresor implies that Fortunato should be gone through death, and he by leaving the tomb.</li> <li>Fortunato seeks the pity of Montresor to let him live for the love of God, while Montresor reinforces his trick for the honor of God as if it is the only salvation for his family name.</li> </ol>
	<p>U <i>What is ironic about Poe's Latin phrase? How is Fortunato's name ironic?</i></p> <p>V <i>What is the overall tone of this text?</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The phrase means "rest in peace," which refers to a) the dead resting in peace, as is often written on tombstones, b) Montresor resting in peace now that he is avenged, and c) Fortunato's inability to rest in peace and imminent death.</li> <li>He was fortunate, but that fortune and success was envied by Montresor and may be part of the reason for revenge.</li> </ol> <p>The word choices overall create a dark and sinister tone.</p>

*Sum up and gather what students have learned about the use of words and phrases on story development, meaning, and tone. Have students identify three ways in which the author uses the connotation of words or organization of words in phrases to evoke a sense of time and place and reinforce the overall tone.*