**“The Cask of Amontillado” by Edgar Allan Poe**

1. Hyperbole is the use of exaggeration to make a point. Look at the first paragraph. What phrase used by the narrator is an example of hyperbole? Write down the full sentence that includes the hyperbolic element. Does this line make you more sympathetic or less toward the narrator/murderer? Why?

2. Montressor tells us, “A wrong is unredressed when retribution overtakes its redresser. It is equally unredressed when the avenger fails to make himself felt as such to him who has done the wrong.” In your own words, explain what this means.

3. What is it about Montresor that makes him an especially effective enemy to Fortunado? Give an example from a book you’ve read or a film/TV show you;ve seen in which this type of villain exists.

4. Fortunado, who has been out drinking and enjoying Carnival, is wearing a clown’s hat. Symbolically, why is this an interesting—and appropriate—costume choice by the writer?

5. To whom, do you suppose, is Montressor telling this story? Upon what evidence do you base your assumption?

6. Name 3 of the many clever things Montresor does to lure Fortunado into his trap?

7. How did Montresor ensure that no servants would be around to witness the crime?

8. Poe uses several elements of foreshadowing. Write down (or paraphrase) 2 lines that foreshadow the grisly event at the end of the tale.

9. Locate and write down a line that includes verbal irony.

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11. When Montresor offeres the Medoc wine to Fortunado, what is the reason he gives for wanting the other man to drink? Wat is the real reason? Why does Montresor also have a drink?

12. At the end of the story, what makes Montresor feel sick?

13. Is Montresor a reliable or unreliable narrator? Explain your answer. (Can we trust his viewpoint and perspective… or is it too biased and shadowed?)

14. Poe is a master at creating an eerie, suspenseful mood in his stories. Dig back into the text of his story and write down two lines that help establish this mood.

15. Montresor acts as judge, jury, and executioner of Fortunado. Is there any crime/offense that Fortunado could have unwittingly committed that would make Montresor’s rage seem reasonable to you? Do you think individuals are ever justified in taking justice into their own hands? Explain your thoughts.