

Name: _____ pd. _____

Cask of Amontillado Close Reading Questions

We will take a closer look (close reading) of certain sections of the story. In the space provided answer the questions (complete sentences) and take notes on the excerpts and quotes.

Text Under Discussion	Guiding Questions	Answers and Notes:
<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. 38</p>	<p><i>What does the speaker, Montresor, mean by the thousand injuries of Fortunato" and a "ventured insult" that must be punished?</i></p> <p><i>What does impunity mean?</i> <i>What does redresser mean? Why did the author select this word?</i></p>	
<p>"He had a weak point--this Fortunato--...He prided himself on his connoisseurship in wine...I was skillful in the Italian vintages myself, and bought largely whenever I could."(Review this entire paragraph in text) p. 38</p>	<p><i>What is significant about the Italian courtiers as they are described here?</i> <i>What is the "virtuoso spirit." What is Fortunato's genuine skill and weakness?</i> <i>Why is it significant?</i></p>	
<p>"...one evening during the supreme madness of the carnival season..." p. 38</p>	<p><i>What purpose does the Carnival setting serve?</i></p>	
<p>"He accosted me with excessive warmth..." p.38</p>	<p><i>What mood does Poe give to this line by using the word "accosted" and "excessive?"</i></p>	
<p>"Luchesi cannot tell Amontillado from Sherry." P. 40</p>	<p><i>How does Montresor manipulate Fortunato into going to his vault?</i></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. 40</p>	<p><i>What is significant about the instructions Montresor gives to his servants as part of his plan?</i></p>	
<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. 40</p>	<p><i>How does Montresor further manipulate Fortunato into going deeper in the vault?</i></p>	
<p>"Nitre!" p. 40</p>	<p><i>Why does Poe draw attention to the Nitre on the walls?</i></p>	
<p>"I drink...to the buried that repose around us." / "And I to your long life." p. 41</p>	<p><i>Why is the toast ironic? How is foreshadowing evident?</i></p>	
<p>"Nemo me impune lacessit." p. 41</p>	<p><i>How do the words on the coat of arms reinforce the characterization of the Montresor?</i></p>	

<p>"A mason?"/ "A sign"/ "It is this,' I answered, producing a trowel from beneath the folds of my <i>rouelaine</i>." p. 7</p>	<p><i>What does the word trowel mean? What is significant about the play on words for "trowel" in this passage?</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." (Review entire paragraph in text) p.8</p>	<p><i>What is evoked by the description of the niche?</i></p>	
<p>"It was not the cry of a drunken man." p. 9</p>	<p><i>What is the true reason for Fortunato's cry?</i></p>	
<p>"I again paused, and holding the flambeaux over the mason-work, threw a few feeble rays upon the figure within." p9</p>	<p><i>What does flambeaux mean?</i></p>	
<p>"I placed my hand upon the solid fabric of the catacombs, and felt satisfied." p. 9</p>	<p><i>What is significant about Poe's choice of the adjectives "solid fabric" to describe the catacombs?</i></p>	
<p>"Let us be gone."/ "For the love of God." p. 10</p>	<p><i>What is implied by each character with these two lines?</i></p>	
<p>"In pace requiescat" p10</p>	<p><i>What is ironic about Poe's Latin phrase?</i></p>	
<p>"Fortunato"</p>	<p><i>How is Fortunato's name ironic?</i></p>	
<p>Tone: List three quotes as text evidence: 1. 2. 3.</p>	<p><i>What is the overall tone of this text?</i></p> <p><i>Circle or highlight the words and phrases from each quote that made you think of this particular tone.</i></p> <p><i>Why do you think the author chose this particular tone?</i></p>	