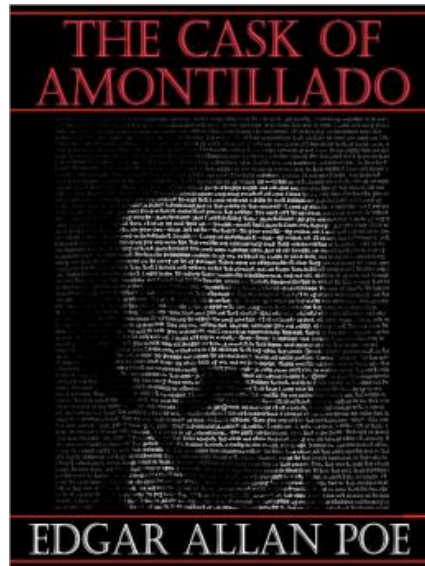


Name:
"The Cask of Amontillado" Packet

Date:
Mrs. Seemayer



Unit Objectives

Know

- Students will know literary terms
- Students will know Edgar Allen Poe's background

Understand

- Students will understand how sin affects a person's judgment
- Students will understand how Biblical references and parallels impact literature

Do

- Students will be able to analyze literary elements within a story
- Students will be able to conduct a guided close reading

Genesis 4: Consequences of Sin

A Lutheran bishop in East Germany who suffered persecution first by the Nazis and then the Communists declared: "When God is not God, man is not man!" He had seen how the rejection of divine authority inevitably led to inhuman actions. In the previous chapter Adam and Eve's disobedience to God fractured their relationship with him. Now we see sin spreading to family relationships as hateful attitudes lead to violent actions.

Warming Up to God

Jesus your Savior wants to care for you today. Hide under his shadow and tell him your concerns. He is listening and offers you peace.

Read Genesis 4

Discovering the Word

- Why do you think the Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering but not on Cain and his offering (vv. 3-7)?

- How does 4:7 illustrate the nature of sin and our response to it?

- The Lord confronts Adam, Eve and Cain with their sin by using a question (3:11, 13; 4:9-10). What might be some of the reasons for this approach?

- In what way is Cain's punishment (4:10-16) a logical consequence of his sin?

- How do Lamech's attitude and action expressed in his taunting song go beyond that of Cain's (4:23-24)?

Applying the Word

- The lifestyle of Cain's family is a picture of humanity—technical progress matched by moral decline. How do you see this trend reflected in our own civilization?

- How have you experienced God's judgment as a logical result of a wrong action?

- How has this chapter helped you to understand the nature and consequences of sin?

Responding in Prayer

Ask God to heal relationships in your life damaged by the effects of the Fall.

Directions: Answer the following question in CEPEP format:

Is revenge ever justified?

“The Cask of Amontillado” by Edgar Allen Poe

PRE-READING

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

CATACOMBS AND CARNIVAL

Centuries ago, in Italy, the early Christians buried their dead in *catacombs*, which are long, winding underground tunnels. Later, wealthy families built private catacombs beneath their *palazzos*, or palatial homes. These dark and cool chambers, or *vaults*, contained *nitre*, a crystallized salt growth. In order to find their way in their underground tunnels, the owners would light torches or *flambeaux*.



These *crypts* were suitable not only for burial, but for storage of fine *vintage* wines such as Amontillado, DeGrave, and Medoc. A wine expert, or *connoisseur*, would store wine carefully in these underground vaults. Wine was stored in casks or *puncheons*, which held 72 to 100 gallons, or in *pipes*, which contained 126 gallons (also known as two hogsheads).

Poe’s story takes place in the catacombs during Carnival, a celebration that still takes place in many countries. The day before Ash Wednesday is celebrated as a holiday with carnivals, masquerade balls, and parades of costumed merrymakers. During Carnival, people celebrate by disguising themselves as fools, wearing *parti-striped dress* or *motley*, and capes, known as *roquelaires*.



Women would celebrate wearing *conical caps*. Carnival is also called Mardi Gras, or Fat Tuesday, because of the feasting that takes place the day before Ash Wednesday. Starting on Ash Wednesday, which is the beginning of Lent, some Christians fast and do penance for their sins.

DURING READING

SECTION 1: PAGE 344 (LINES 1-20)

1. **POINT OF VIEW:** From what **point of view** is the story told? How do you know?

2. **PARAPHRASE:** In your own words, what does the first paragraph of the story say?

3. **COMPREHENSION:** Why has Montresor chosen to take such action against Fortunato?

4. **COMPREHENSION:** What two things does the narrator say have to happen in order for revenge to be complete?

5. **CHARACTERIZATION:** What kind of a person is Montresor? How do you know? Cite three quotations from the first three paragraphs and explain what you learn about Montresor from them. Be sure to cite whether the quote you have chosen is an example of direct or indirect characterization.

Quote	Quotation from Text	What Do We Learn?	Direct or Indirect?
#1			
#2			
#3			

6. **IRONY:** The narrator tells his audience of his plans to end Fortunato's life, but Fortunato has no idea. What sort of irony is this?

SECTION 2: PAGES 344-346 (LINES 21-58)

7. **MOTIVATION:** Why does Montresor say that he was "so pleased to see" Fortunato at the beginning of the story?

8. **MAKING INFERENCES:** How does Montresor manipulate Fortunato into following him home?

9. **MOOD:** In lines 27-55, how does Poe build a suspenseful mood in the conversation between Fortunato and the narrator?

SECTION 3: PAGES 346-347 (LINES 59-98)

10. **MAKING INFERENCES/MOTIVATION:** Why does Montresor tell his servants not to leave the house?

11. **MOTIVATION:** Why does Montresor keep suggesting that he and Fortunato turn back, and why does he keep mentioning Luchesi?

SECTION 4: PAGES 347-348 (LINES 99-137)

12. **ALLUSION:** Explain the allusion in the Montresor family seal (arms).

13. **FORESHADOWING:** What is the Montresor family motto? What does it foreshadow?

14. **IMAGERY:** What sensory details help you to visualize the setting in this part of the story? Provide at least two.

SECTION 5: PAGES 348-350 (LINES 138-168)

15. **MAKING PREDICTIONS:** Having read to this point, how do you think Montresor plans to get his revenge against Fortunato?

16. **COMPREHENSION:** What does Montresor do when they reach their destination?

SECTION 6: PAGES 350-351 (LINES 169-219)

17. **MOOD:** Read the paragraph from lines 173-184. What images and details make this description especially horrifying?

18. **MAKING INFERENCES:** Why does Montresor take a break while he is laying the brick?

19. **MOTIVATION:** At the end, why does Montresor keep seeking a supply from Fortunato?

20. **ANALYZE SENTENCE STRUCTURE (SYNTAX):** In the sentence, “My heart grew sick – on account of the dampness of the catacombs,” what is the purpose of the dash?

21. **COMPREHENSION:** At the time that Montresor recounts this story, how long has it been since the events occurred?

POST-READING ANALYSIS

SETTING

22. What is significant about the time **setting** for this story? Why does Poe set it during Carnival?

CHARACTERIZATION

23. Who is the **protagonist** of the story? Explain why he is the **protagonist**.

24. Who is the **antagonist** of the story? Explain why he is the **antagonist**.

25. What is Montresor's **character flaw** that allows him to be manipulated into following Montresor to the catacombs?

26. Is Montresor sane or insane? Explain your answer.

27. In the table below, categorize each of the characters below as **round** or **flat** **AND** **static** or **dynamic**. Be prepared to discuss and defend your answers in class.

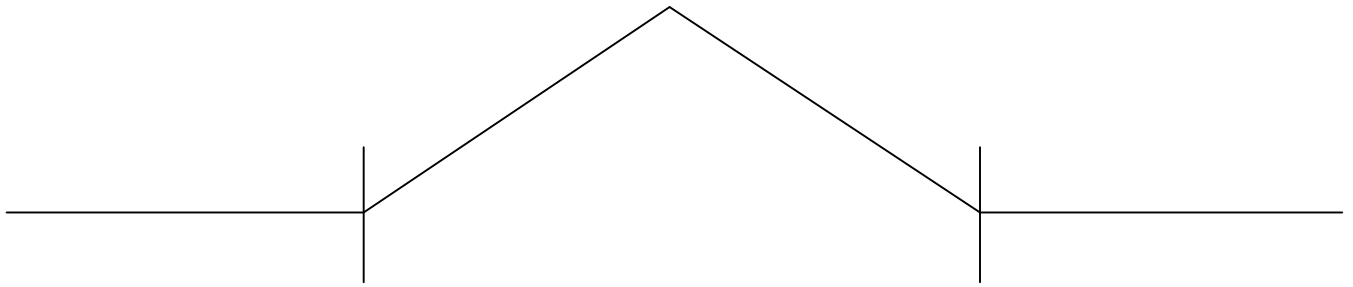
CHARACTER	ROUND or FLAT?	STATIC or DYNAMIC?
Montresor		
Fortunato		

POINT OF VIEW

28. What is the effect of telling the story from this **point of view**? How would the story be different if told from a different **point of view**?

29. Is Montresor a **reliable narrator**? Why/why not?

PLOT STRUCTURE: *Using the Freytag’s Pyramid provided, diagram the major plot events in “The Cask of Amontillado,” ensuring that you address all seven elements: Exposition, Inciting Moment/Incident, Rising Action, Climax, Falling Action, Resolution, and Denouement (if applicable). Use the blank space below if you need more room for notes.*



FORESHADOWING

30. Provide at least two (2) examples of **foreshadowing** from the story, and indicate what each instance foreshadows.

IMAGERY AND MOOD

31. What is the **mood** of the story?

32. List five **images/setting details** that contribute to the **mood** and explain how they do so.

THEME

33. What might the **theme** of this story be? Explain why you think that this is the theme.

FINAL THOUGHTS

34. Does Montresor achieve the kind of revenge that he claims to want in the first paragraph of the story? Why/why not?

“THE CASK OF AMONTILLADO” IRONY CHART

TYPE OF IRONY

Quotation
(with page number)

WHY IS IT IRONIC?

Situational

Verbal

Dramatic

Essay

Answer one of the following prompts in a 5-paragraph literary analysis essay:

-How does Poe use language (literary devices and figurative language) to create an effective short story?

-Is revenge ever justified?

-Discuss sin and its consequences in the context of "The Cask of Amontillado."

-Analyze the narrator of "The Cast of Amontillado." Is he a reliable narrator?

-Analyze a theme of "The Cask of Amontillado."