English 9- Mrs. Boggio Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

“Cask of Amontillado”

**Setting**

It is early evening in an Italian city during a carnival immediately preceding Lent.

Characters

.......Montresor, a deranged man who seeks revenge.
.......Fortunato, a haughty wine connoisseur against whom Montresor seeks revenge.

**Narration (Point of View)**

First-Person Unreliable. Montresor tells the story in the first person, meaning he uses pronouns such as *I*, *me, my*, and so on. He is called an “unreliable” narrator because he is mentally unbalanced; his narration may be untrustworthy. For example, he could have imagined that Fortunato wronged him.

**Themes**

Revenge

Fortunato had committed many offenses against Montresor, the last one an insult, according to Montresor.

Deception

To lure Fortunato into the catacombs, Montresor deceives Fortunato, telling him he wants to taste some wine to determine whether it is genuine Amontillado.

Pride

Fortunato readily accepts Montresor's invitation to taste wine and determine whether it is genuine Amontillado, for Fortunato believes himself to be a great wine connoisseur. So proud is he of his ability that he takes on the challenge even though he has a cough and is already somewhat drunk.

**Use of Irony**

Throughout the story, Poe uses [verbal and dramatic irony](http://www.cummingsstudyguides.net/Guides2/xLitTerms.html#Literary%20Terms) to build suspense, foreshadow the ending, and add a touch of macabre humor. Here are some examples irony:

The Title: The word *cask*, meaning *wine barrel*, is derived from the same root word used to form *casket*, meaning *coffin*. Thus, the cask figuratively represents Fortunato’s casket.
Fortunato’s Name: The Italian name *Fortunato* suggests good fortune, luck. However, Fortunato is anything but fortunate; he is going to his death.
Fortunato’s Costume: Fortunato dresses as a court jester. His festive outfit contrasts with the ghastly fate that awaits him. From time to time, the bell on his cone-shaped hat jingles–a nice comic touch from Poe.
Reference to Masons: Fortunato asks Montresor whether his is a mason, meaning a member of the fraternal order of Freemasonry. Montresor says he is indeed a mason. However, he is using the word to mean a craftsman who builds with stone and mortar (because he will be building Fortunato’s “tomb,” a stone wall.)

Poe also uses irony frequently in the dialogue. For example, when Montresor runs into Fortunato, he says, “My dear Fortunato, you are luckily met.” Later, when Montresor pretends to be concerned about Fortunato’s hacking cough as they descend into the vaults, Montresor says, “We will go back. Your health is precious. Your are rich, respected, admired, beloved; you are happy, as I once was. You are a man to be missed.” Fortunato then tells Montresor not to worry: “The cough is a mere nothing; it will not kill me. I will not die of a cough.” To this reply, Montresor says, “True–true.” The reader at this point can almost see a devilish gleam in Montresor’s eyes, for he knows exactly how Fortunato will die.” Later, Montresor opens a bottle of wine and toasts Fortunato: “To your long life,” he says.

**QUESTIONS: Answer the following questions in COMPLETE SENTENCES. PLEASE PUT THE QUESTION BACK IN THE ANSWER. You may use your book 208-214. 1 point each**

1. What is the meaning of the phrase “A wrong is unredressed when retribution overtakes its redresser”?
2. Why did Montresor seek revenge on Fortunato?
3. How did Montresor know that the house would be empty?
4. Where had the stone and mortar, used by Montresor to wall up the entrance to the niche, been hidden?
5. In your own words, describe the catacombs that Fortunato is led through.
6. Where and when is the story set? Give reasons for your answer.
7. Why does Montresor make sure Fortunato has drunk a lot of wine?
8. What is Luchresi’s role in the story?
9. What preparations had Montresso made for his revenge?
10. Why does Montresor appear concerned about Fortunato’s health?
11. Describe Fortunato’s character.
12. What is Montresor’s attitude toward revenge, or punishment?
13. How does Montresor get Fortunato to do the opposite of what he is asking of him?
14. Why do you think Montresor gives Fortunato bottles to drink on their way to taste the Amontillado?
15. Where does Montresor take Fortunato to get his revenge?
16. What is Montresor’s revenge?
17. Identify one internal and one external conflict.

**PLOT STRUCTURE 7 points**

Exposition of the Story

2 Rising Actions

Climax

2 Falling Actions

Resolution