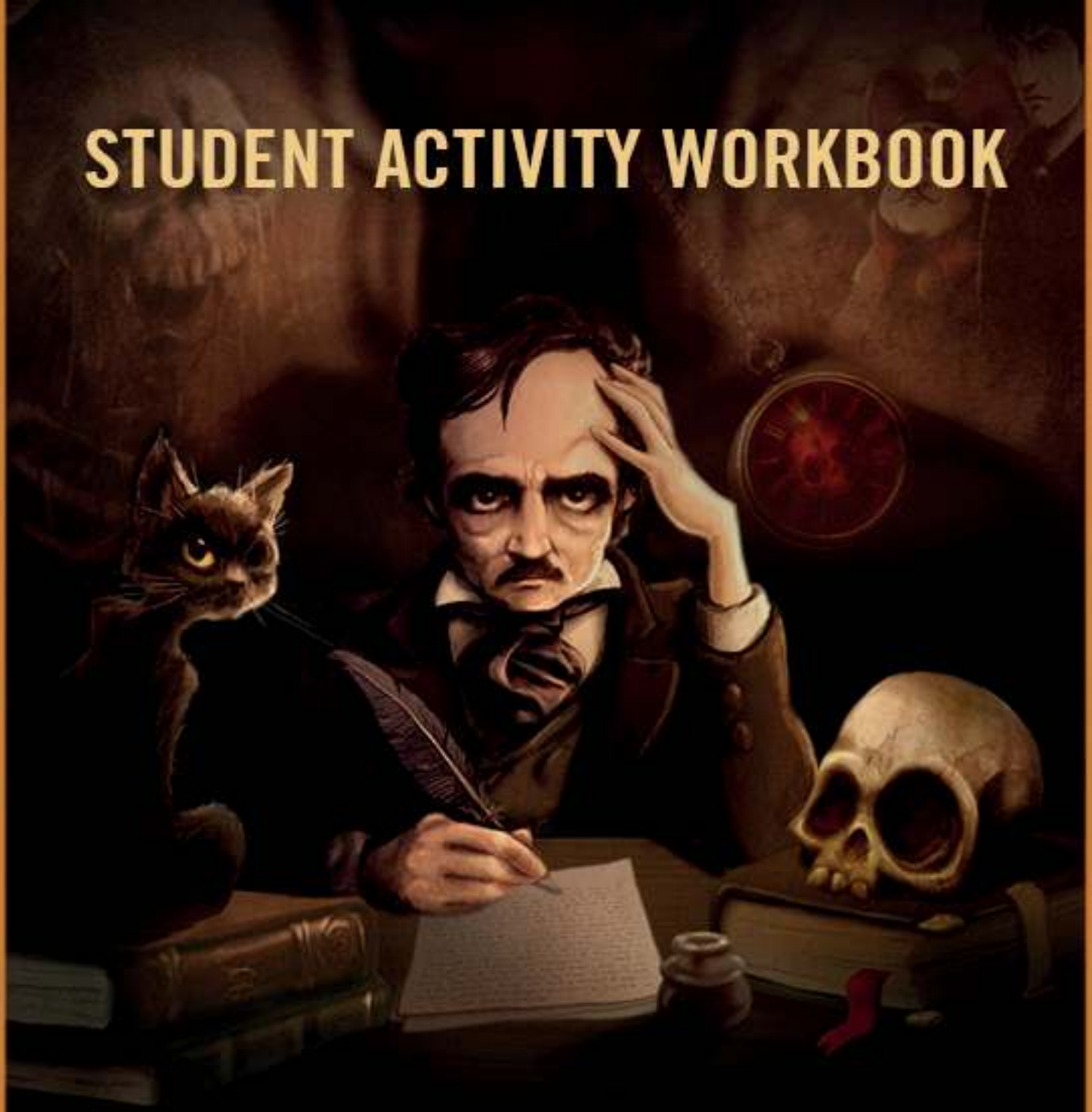
STUDENT ACTIVITY WORKBOOK



EDGAR ALLAN POE

iPoe Collection 3

FEATURING:

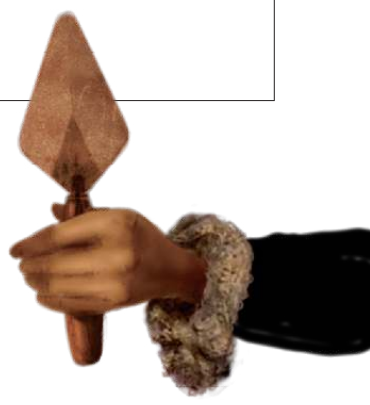
THE CASK OF AMONTILLADO • ALONE • EL DORADO
THE FACTS IN THE CASE OF M. VALDEMAR

Character Analysis

Fill in the table below with as much information as possible about the characters in The Cask of Amontillado.

Extension: Choose one of the characters (either the narrator, or Fortunato) and write a short essay describing each aspect of their character in more detail and explaining any relevance the characteristics have to the outcome of the story.

	MONTRESOR (THE NARRATOR)	FORTUNATO
Personality description		
Physical description		
Hobbies/ Interests		
Condition of health		



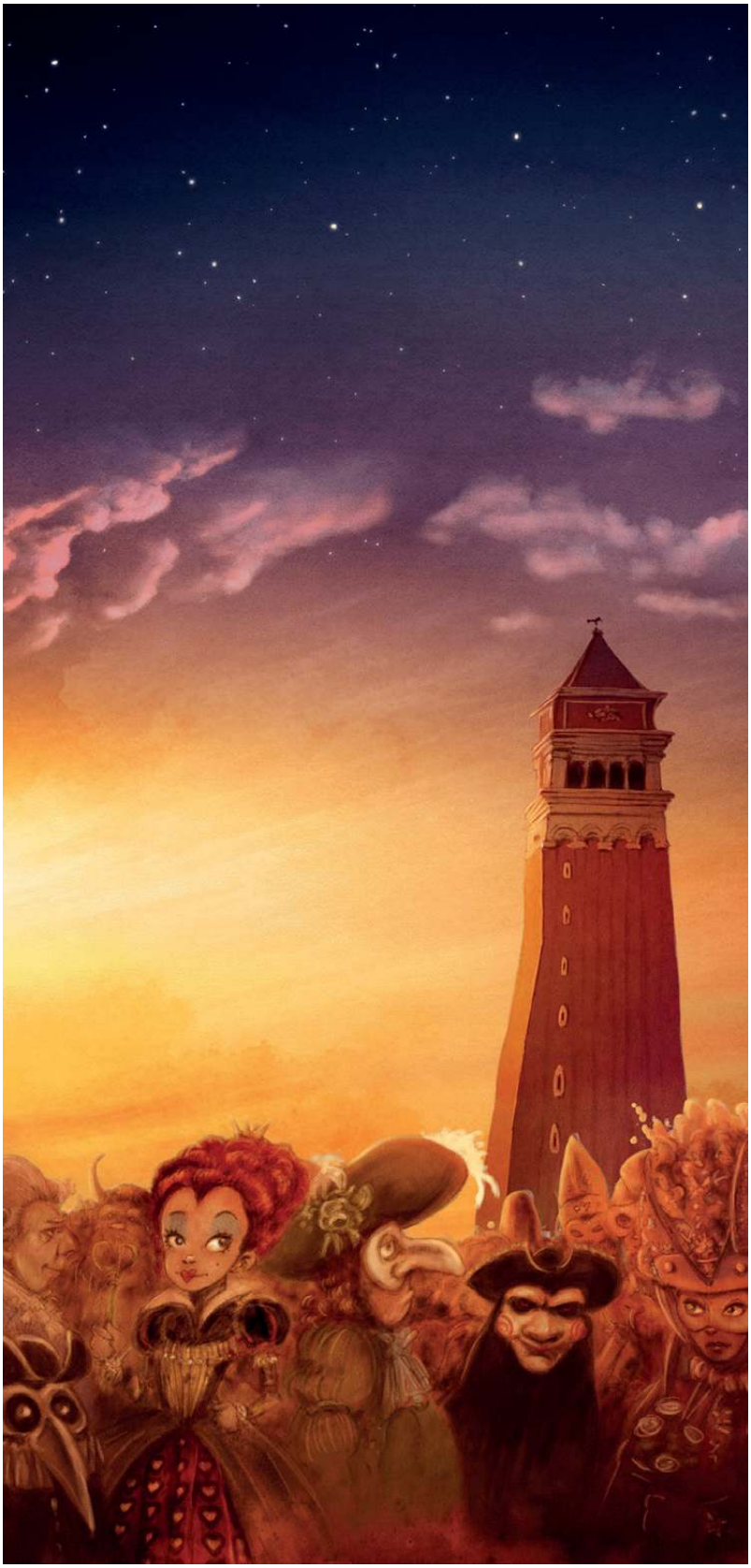
Matching exercise

Match each phrase from the story with an image.

It was about dusk, one evening during the supreme madness of the carnival season, that I encountered my friend	1	A 
"The nitre!" I said; "see, it increases. It hangs like moss upon the vaults. We are below the river's bed. The drops of moisture trickle among the bones. Come, we will go back ere it is too late. Your cough-"	2	B 
"You are not of the masons." "Yes, yes," I said, "yes, yes." "You? Impossible! A mason?"	3	C 
"Pass your hand," I said, "over the wall; you cannot help feeling the nitre. Indeed it is very damp. Once more let me implore you to return. No? Then I must positively leave you. But I must first render you all the little attentions in my power."	4	D 
A succession of loud and shrill screams, bursting suddenly from the throat of the chained form, seemed to thrust me violently back.	5	E 
But now there came from out the niche a low laugh that erected the hairs upon my head.	6	F 

Glossary

Immolation (n) the act of offering a sacrifice by burning
Virtuoso (n) a person with a special knowledge or skill in an art
Imposture (n) pretending to be someone else
Gemmary (n) the science of gems
Motley (n) the multi-coloured costume of a jester
Amontillado (n) a medium dry sherry
Nitre (n) a white salt used to preserve meat and in gunpowder
Roquelaire (n) a knee-length cloak worn in the 18th and 19th centuries
Palazzo (n) palace
Flambeaux (n) a flaming torch
Catacombs (n) underground cemeteries
Rheum (n) a watery fluid in the eyes or nose
Puncheons (n) large casks for storing liquids
Fetter (v) restrain with chains or manacles
Rapier (n) a thin sword



Please choose the best option for each of the following questions:



1. What is Fortunato's weak point?
a. His only daughter
b. His prided knowledge of wine
c. His love of food
d. The old dog that he kept

2. What happens to the two diners in the middle of the table, when you move the wine glass across them? *
a. They both disappear
b. They drain their glasses of wine
c. They grow horns
d. One man slits the other's throat

3. What does Fortunato say about Luchesi?
a. That he is a top notch connoisseur
b. That he can't tell Amontillado from sherry
c. That he is not to be trusted
d. That he has never tasted Amontillado in his life

4. Why does the narrator seem reluctant to invite Fortunato to his vault?
a. Because the vault has not been cleaned for weeks
b. Because he doesn't want to share the Amontillado with Fortunato
c. Because Fortunato has a cold and the vault is damp
d. Because he has already invited Luchesi

5. What is notable about the black cat sitting on the barrel, watching the narrator and Fortunato walk off down the alleyway? *
a. It changes colour when you tap it
b. It has one eye
c. It has three kittens in front of it
d. It has a human face

6. What did the narrator tell his servants before leaving the house earlier that day?
a. That he wouldn't be back until morning, and to stay in the house
b. That he would be back that evening, and to hide themselves in the vault
c. That he wouldn't be back until the morning, and they should go and enjoy the frivolities
d. That they were all fired

7. What is the white web-work on the cavern walls?
a. Spider-webs
b. Artwork
c. Nitre
d. Graffiti



*For these questions, refer to the App: "Edgar Allan Poe vol.3"

8. What does the narrator suggest to defend them from the damp?
a. A tumbler of Tempranillo
b. A draught of Medoc
c. A glass of Chardonnay
d. A pint of beer

9. What does the serpent on the coat of arms do when you tap it? *
a. Bites the heel of the foot
b. Slithers away
c. Turns into a dragon
d. Lunges at the screen with open jaws

10. What is the significance of the narrator not understanding Fortunato's gesticulation with the bottle of De Grâve?
a. It suggests he knows little about wine
b. It suggests he is not a mason
c. It suggests he is not a childhood friend of Fortunato's
d. It suggests he is stupid

11. What does the narrator produce from beneath his roquelaire?
a. A knife
b. A pocket-watch
c. A trowel
d. A banana

12. How wide is the interior recess on the fourth side of the smaller, interior crypt?
a. 7 feet
b. 6 feet
c. 4 feet
d. 3 feet

13. What does the narrator do when Fortunato steps into the recess?
a. Chains him to the wall
b. Hits him over the head with a bottle of wine
c. Stabs him in the back
d. Shows him the bottle of Amontillado

14. What happens after the narrator lays the fourth tier of the wall?
a. Fortunato lets out a moaning cry
b. Fortunato starts rattling his chains
c. Fortunato dies
d. Fortunato escapes

15. What is on the card in the middle of the five tarot cards?
a. Love
b. Revenge
c. Death
d. Misfortune

16. What does the narrator do when Fortunato starts screaming?
a. Kills him with his sword
b. Screams back at him
c. Starts to dismantle the wall
d. Drinks deeply from a bottle of wine

17. What happens at the end of the story?
a. The narrator sets Fortunato free and they return to the palazzo
b. Fortunato escapes from his chains and the catacombs
c. Fortunato escapes from his chains but is caught by the narrator who kills him with his trowel
d. The narrator finishes walling Fortunato up and leaves him there to die

*For these questions, refer to the App: "Edgar Allan Poe vol.3"

At the end of the Cask of Amontillado, the narrator leaves Fortunato to his death in the catacombs. Lady Fortunato soon becomes worried about her husband's disappearance and reports the matter to the police. Some people at the carnival saw the narrator leaving with Fortunato, and so he is called in for questioning. Imagine you are the narrator, and answer the police's questions below. You can make up information about the narrator and Fortunato's past to supplement what we already know from the story.

Please can you describe your relationship with

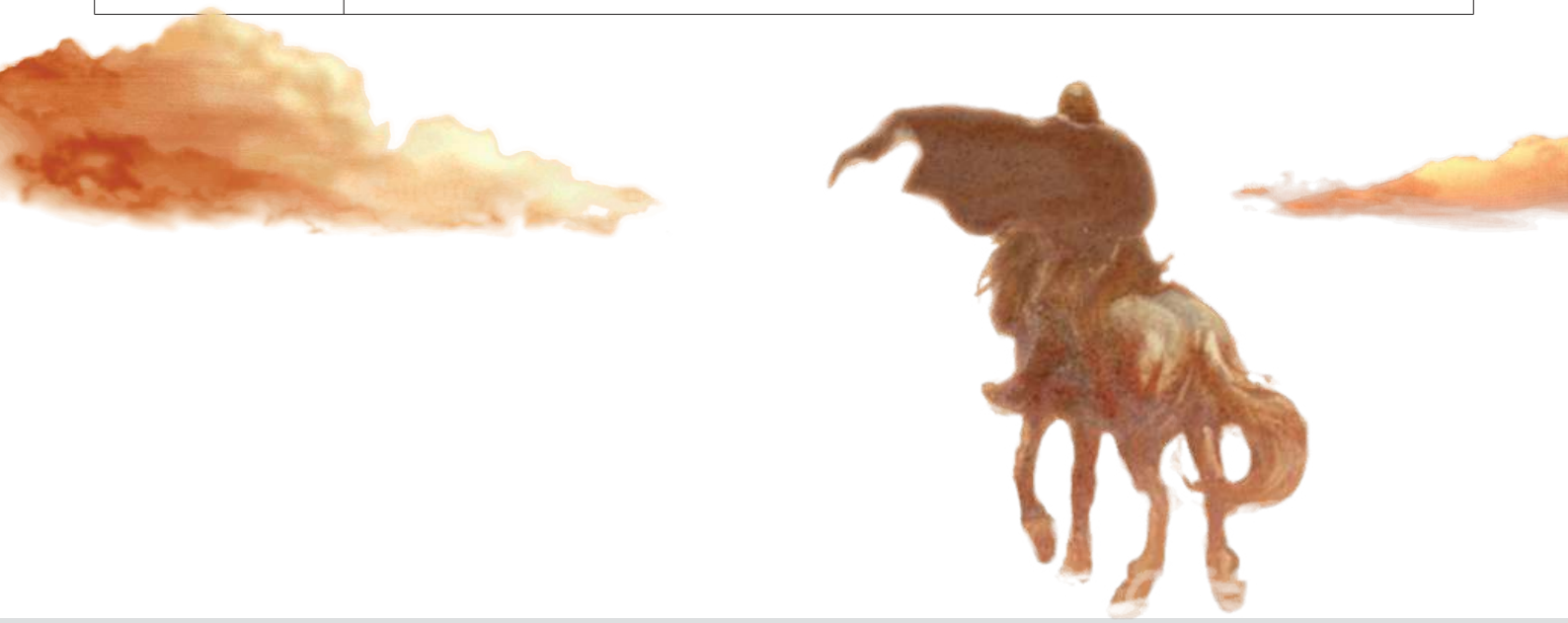
Some of those we have already questioned, have mentioned that there were times when Fortunato offended you in the past. Please can you explain what happened in these instances?

You were seen leaving the carnival with Fortunato on the day of his disappearance. Where were you going, and why?

Please can you describe in detail the last time you saw Fortunato?

Fill in the table below giving evidence from the poem as to how and why the Knight of Eldorado relates to the three character descriptions in the table.

	THE KNIGHT OF ELDORADO
Optimistic	
Stubborn	
Doomed	



Matching exercise

Match each phrase from the story with an image.

And o'er his heart a shadow–
Fell as he found
No spot of ground
That looked like Eldorado

1

A



And, as his strength,
Failed him at length,
He met a pilgrim shadow –

2

B



Eldorado (n) a fictitious country or city full of gold
Gaily (adv) in a cheerful or light-hearted way
Bedight (adj) adorned



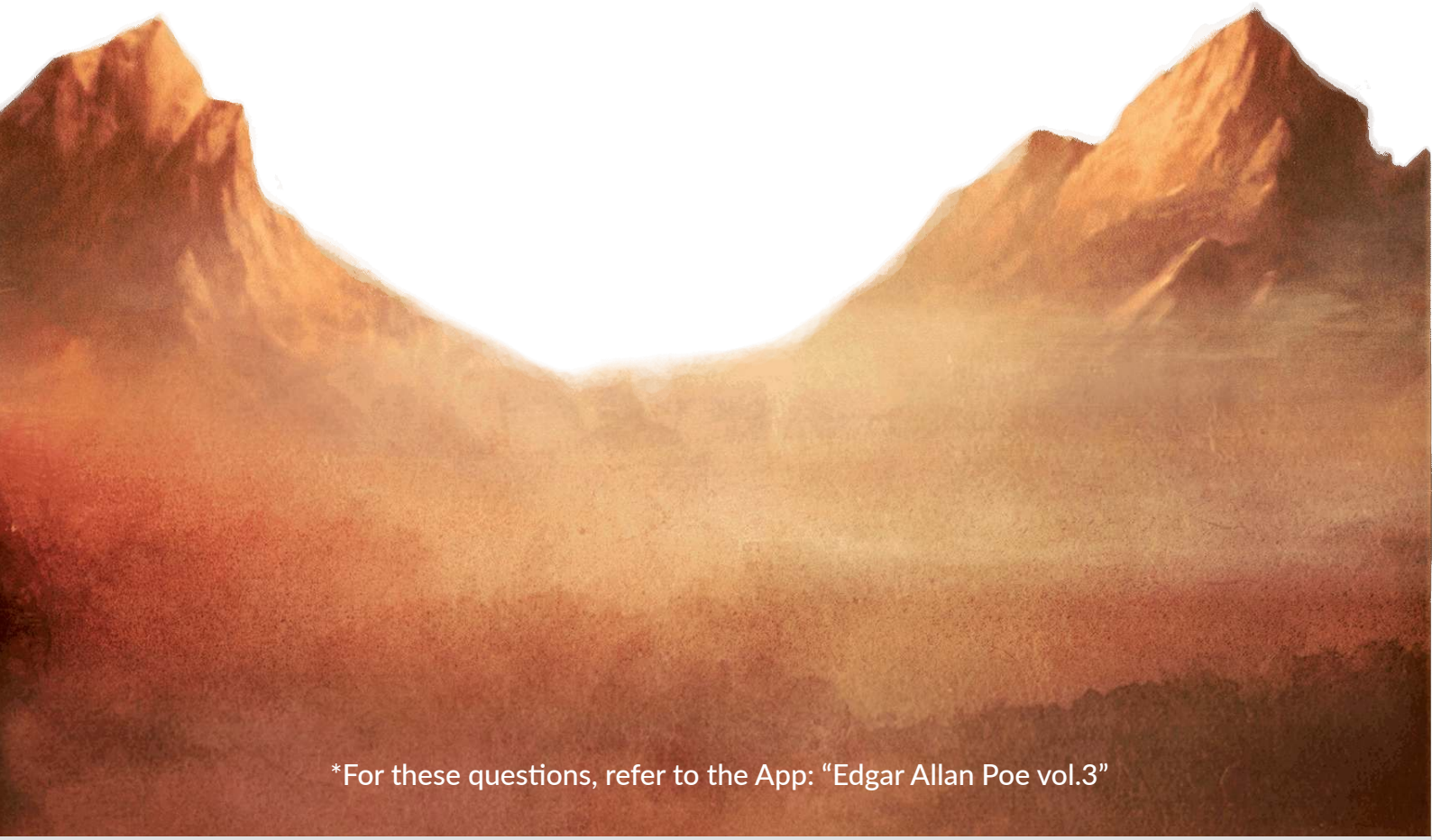
Please choose the best option for each of the following questions:

1. What happens when you tap the gallant knight on horseback? *
a. He gallops away
b. He raises his sword with a cry
c. It turns from day to night and back again
d. His horse rears and bucks

2. What did the gallant knight do as he journeyed along in search of Eldorado?
a. Fought his enemies
b. Sang a song
c. Told stories to his horse
d. Drank wine

3. When does the knight meet the shadow?
a. On his seventh year of wandering
b. When his strength fails him
c. On the 1st January
d. On his birthday

4. Where does the shadow say Eldorado is?
a. In his mind
b. On the edge of his scythe
c. Over the mountains of the moon
d. In the Americas



*For these questions, refer to the App: “Edgar Allan Poe vol.3”

Write a letter from Knight of Eldorado to his brother, explaining that is he is leaving to search for Eldorado and justifying his decision.



Fill in the table below giving evidence from the poem as to how and why the narrator of Alone relates to the three character descriptions in the table.

	THE NARRATOR OF ALONE
Lonely	
Estranged	
Morbid	



Matching exercise

Match each phrase from the story with an image.

And all I lov'd –
I lov'd alone

1

A



From the sun
that 'round me roll'd
In its autumn tint of gold –

2

B



And the cloud that took
the form (When the rest of
Heaven was blue)
Of a daemon in my view

3

C



Glossary

Awaken (v) wake up
Bind (v) to hold something together
Torrent (n) fast moving river or stream
Tint (n) a shade of colour



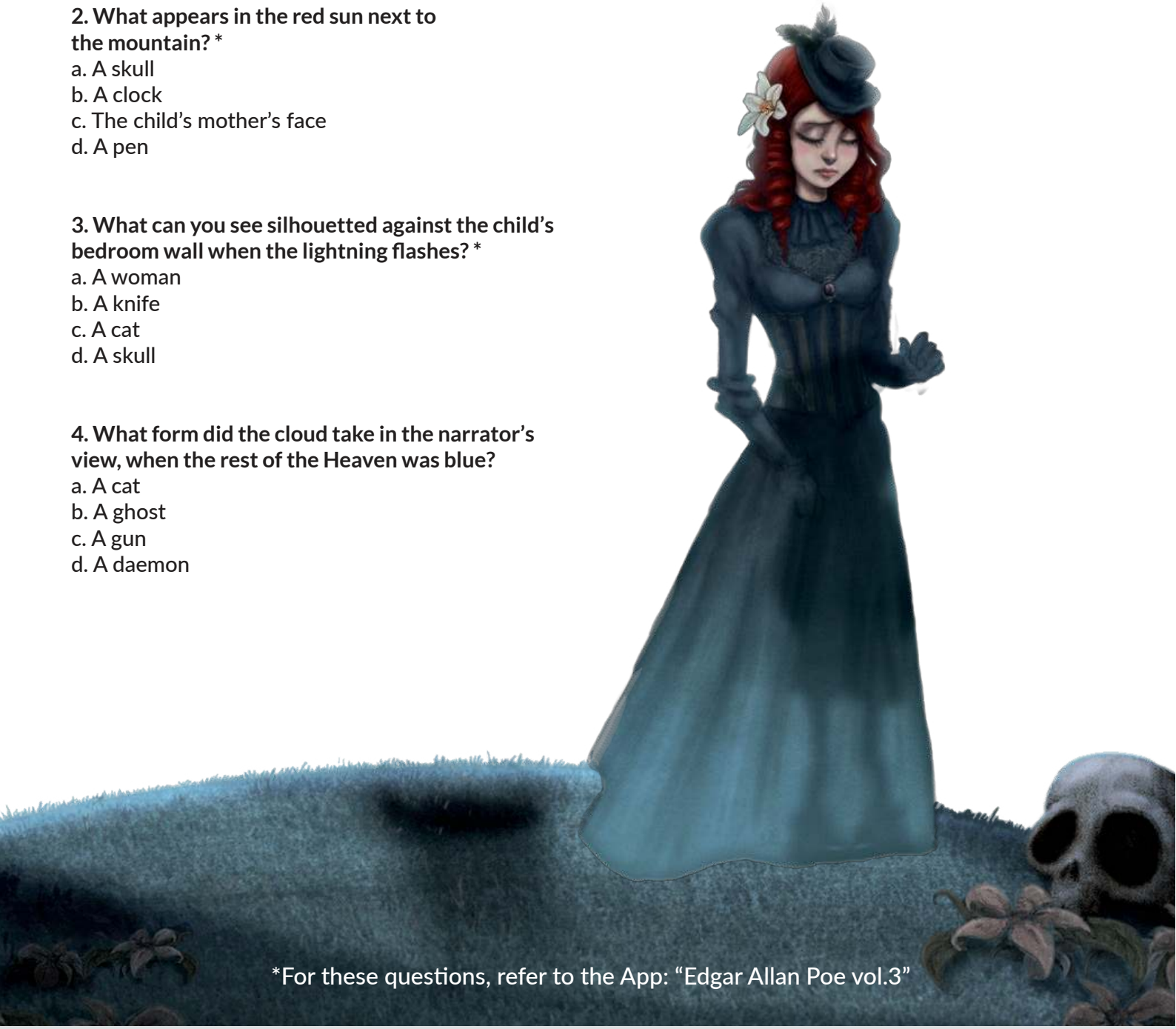
Please choose the best option for each of the following questions:

1. What happens when you tap the child's mother as she stands behind him in the graveyard? *
a. She disappears and is replaced by a gravestone
b. She strokes his hair
c. She grows wings and floats up into the sky
d. She turns into a skeleton

2. What appears in the red sun next to the mountain? *
a. A skull
b. A clock
c. The child's mother's face
d. A pen

3. What can you see silhouetted against the child's bedroom wall when the lightning flashes? *
a. A woman
b. A knife
c. A cat
d. A skull

4. What form did the cloud take in the narrator's view, when the rest of the Heaven was blue?
a. A cat
b. A ghost
c. A gun
d. A daemon



*For these questions, refer to the App: "Edgar Allan Poe vol.3"

Do some research into Edgar Allan Poe's past. Write a short essay exploring different ways Alone relates to or reflects Poe's personal history.



Character Analysis

Fill in the table below with as much information as possible about the characters in The Facts in the Case of M. Valdemar.

Extension: Choose one of the characters (either the narrator, or M. Valdemar) and write a short essay describing each aspect of their character in more detail and explaining any relevance the characteristics have to the outcome of the story.

	THE NARRATOR	M. VALDEMAR
Personality description		
Physical description		
Hobbies/ Interests		
Condition of health		



Matching exercise

Match each phrase from the story with an image.

His face wore a leaden hue; the eyes were utterly lustreless; and the emaciation was so extreme, that the skin had been broken through by the cheekbones.	1	A	
While he spoke thus, I commenced the passes which I had already found most effectual in subduing him	2	B	
so hideous beyond conception was the appearance of M. Valdemar at this moment, that there was a general shrinking back from the region of the bed.	3	C	
He now said: “Yes; -no; - I have been sleeping – and now – now – I am dead!”	4	D	

Glossary

Mesmerism (n) hypnotism
Hitherto (adv) until now
In articulo mortis (adj/adv) at the moment of death
Spareness (adj) thinness
Clairvoyance (n) being able to see the future or perceive things beyond the material world
Phthisis (n) pulmonary tuberculosis
Dissolution (n) death
Epoch (n) a particular period of time
Expectoration (n) coughing up phlegm
Osseous (adj) made of bone
Cartilaginous (adj) made of cartilage
Purulent (adj) consisting of or discharging pus
Tubercles (n) areas of swelling in the lungs, typical of tuberculosis
Aneurism (n) excessive localised swelling of the wall of an artery
Aorta (n) the main artery of the body
Stertorous (adj) noisy and laboured
Supervene (v) occur as an interruption to the current situation
Cadaverous (adj) very pale
Hectic (adj) affected by a fever typical to tuberculosis
Epithet (n) an adjective or phrase expressing something characteristic
Volition (n) using one's own will
Ichor (n) a watery discharge from a wound
Abeyance (n) a state of temporary suspension
Putrescence (n) decayed matter



Please choose the best option for each of the following questions:

1. What is the headline of the New York Herald as the story begins? *
a. Valdemar and the Undead: Fiction or Reality?
b. The Valdemar Case: Science or Fraud?
c. Who is M. Valdemar?
d. M. Valedemar: the truth unveiled

2. What subject does the narrator say his attention has repeatedly been drawn to for the last three years?
a. Magic tricks
b. Embalming
c. Mesmerism
d. Exhumation

3. What is M. Ernest Valdemar well known for compiling?
a. The "Bibliotecha Forensica"
b. "A History of Hypnotism"
c. "In Articulo Mortis: a study"
d. "The Condition of the Working Class"

4. Under which pen name did Valdemar write "Wallenstein" and "Gargantua"?
a. Angelina Klaus
b. John Smith
c. Kristof Engels
d. Issachar Marx

5. What did Valdemar's physicians declare about him?
a. That he was of a nervous disposition
b. That he had phthisis
c. That he was unsuited to be a subject of mesmerism
d. That he was well-rounded and healthy



6. What is the first line of the letter Valdemar sent the narrator seven months ago?
a. "My days are numbered"
b. "I have good news"
c. "You may as well come now"
d. "I have some new information for you"

7. When did Valdemar's physicians think he would die?
a. Midnight on Sunday
b. Two o'clock on Saturday
c. Midday on Monday
d. Late afternoon on Thursday

8. Why did the narrator wait until about eight the following night to commence the mesmerisation?
a. Because the mesmerisation might have worn off before Valdemar's death otherwise
b. Because he didn't think the nurses alone would be reliable enough witnesses
c. Because he wanted to spend some time with Valdemar beforehand
d. Because he was tired and wanted to have a nap

9. What happened at some minutes after ten o'clock?
a. The narrator gave up on mesmerising Valdemar
b. Valdemar died
c. Doctors D— and F— called
d. Mr L— stormed out

10. What do the physicians conclude when they evaluated Valdemar's condition at midnight?
a. That he is in a perfect state of mesmeric trance
b. That he is dead
c. That his breathing is becoming stronger
d. That he is a zombie

*For these questions, refer to the App: "Edgar Allan Poe vol.3"

11. What happens when the narrator asks Valdemar if he is asleep? *
a. He sits up suddenly in bed
b. He answers after the narrator repeats his question several times
c. He shouts his answer immediately
d. He doesn't answer at all

12. How does Valdemar's conditions change when the narrator asks him if he is asleep for the third time? Select all that apply.
a. His eyes rolled upwards
b. His eyes turned red
c. He screamed
d. He grabbed the narrator by the throat
e. His skin became extremely pale
f. His mouth opened
g. The fever spots on his cheeks disappeared

13. Apart from seeming to come from a vast distance away, what else characterised the voice that came from Valdemar's jaws, according to the narrator?
a. It felt to him as gelatinous things feel to the touch
b. It felt to him as a sharp point feels to the touch
c. It was accompanied by an acute pain in the heads of everyone present
d. It was very high-pitched

14. What happened to Mr L—after the voice came out of Valdemar's mouth, saying he was dead?
a. He ran out of the house screaming
b. He swooned
c. He shot himself in the head
d. He tried to stab Valdemar in the chest

15. How long was Valdemar kept in his mesmeric state?
a. Over a year
b. One full cycle of the moon
c. Nearly seven months
d. Five days

16. What accompanied the lowering of Valdemar's pupils as the narrator began his attempts to awaken him?
a. His arms jerked into a stiff, outstretched position
b. A foul-smelling discharge flowed out his eyes
c. He began to chant in a low voice
d. He began to bleed from his nose

17. What does Valdemar say when the narrator asks him to explain his feelings or wishes?
a. He says he feels calm
b. He asks him to put him to sleep or waken him as he is dead
c. He says he will have his revenge
d. He says he wants to live again

18. What can you see in the narrator's hands after he awakens Valdemar? *
a. Valdemar's blackened tongue
b. A large knife
c. A sandwich
d. The rotted remains of Valdemar



*For these questions, refer to the App: "Edgar Allan Poe vol.3"

The New York Herald has sent a journalist round to interview the narrator of The Facts in the Case of M. Valdemar about what happened to M. Valdemar.
Imagine you are the narrator, being interviewed. Answer the journalist's questions below.

You are a practicing mesmerist, if I am not mistaken? Please can you explain to our readers what attracted you to this strange art?

And what was it that so attracted you to the idea of mesmerising someone on their death bed?

You and M. Valdemar were close acquaintances. Can you explain to us why you chose him to be your subject for this experiment?

Accounts of what happened to M. Valdemar are very disturbing. Do you think what happened can be explained by science, or is this evidence of the supernatural? Give reasons to support your opinion.



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