Character Analysis

Name: _____

Date: _____

Active characters move the story along by consciously and deliberately making changes to their surroundings. Passive characters do the opposite: they are simply affected by the changes going on around them. Some characters are active in some ways and passive in others, or change from one to the other as the story progresses.

1. Fill in the table for each character. Tick **Active**, **Passive** or both, and give evidence from the story.



MONTRESOR (THE NARRATOR)

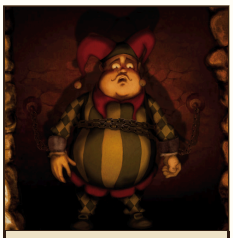
☐ Active
☐ Passive

Relationship to other characters

Physical description

Personality

Evidence from the story



FORTUNATO

☐ Active
☐ Passive

Relationship to other characters

Physical description

Personality

Evidence from the story

Live the story in the iClassics app
Interactive · Immersive · Illustrated

Matching exercise

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. Match each phrase from the story with an image. Draw a line to join them.

1 *It was about dusk, one evening during the supreme madness of the carnival season, that I encountered my friend*

2 *"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–"*

3 *"You are not of the masons." "Yes, yes," I said, "yes, yes." "You? Impossible! A mason?"*

4 *"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."*

5 *A succession of loud and shrill screams, bursting suddenly from the throat of the chained form, seemed to thrust me violently back.*

6 *But now there came from out the niche a low laugh that erected the hairs upon my head.*

A 

B 

C 

D 

E 

F 

Live the story in the iClassics app
Interactive · Immersive · Illustrated

Glossary

Name: _____

Date: _____

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) flaming torches

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

BEFORE YOU READ

Is revenge ever justified? Where does the wish for justice end and cruelty begin?

A person can be hurt by an insult that nobody else notices. Why might that hurt so much?

Live the story in the iClassics app
Interactive · Immersive · Illustrated

Quiz

Name: _____

Date: _____

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 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

3. 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

4. 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

5. What is the white web-work on the cavern walls?

(a) Spider-webs
(b) Artwork
(c) Nitre
(d) Graffiti

6. 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

7. 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

8. What does the narrator produce from beneath his roquelaire?

(a) A knife
(b) A pocket-watch
(c) A trowel
(d) A banana

9. 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

Live the story in the iClassics app
Interactive · Immersive · Illustrated

Quiz

Name: _____

Date: _____

10. 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

11. 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

12. What is on the card in the middle of the five tarot cards?

(a) Love

(b) Revenge

(c) Death

(d) Misfortune

13. 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

14. 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

If you read it in the iClassics app

Answer these extra questions about what you discover as you read:

1. What happens to the two diners in the middle of the table when you move the wine glass across them?

2. What is notable about the black cat sitting on the barrel, watching the narrator and Fortunato walk off down the alleyway?

3. What does the serpent on the coat of arms do when you tap it?

Live the story in the iClassics app
Interactive · Immersive · Illustrated

Think like a detective

Name: _____

Date: _____

Answer in full sentences. Support your ideas with evidence from the text.

1. Montresor says Fortunato has injured him “a thousand times”, yet he never tells us the insult. Why might Poe leave it out? Can we trust Montresor as a narrator?

2. Fortunato wears a jester’s costume and Montresor is polite and ironic throughout. How do the carnival setting and the dark humour make the crime more chilling?

3. The story ends with the narrator saying fifty years have passed. Why do you think he is telling it, and who is he telling it to? Does he feel guilt?

Live the story in the iClassics app
Interactive · Immersive · Illustrated

Writing

Name: _____

Date: _____

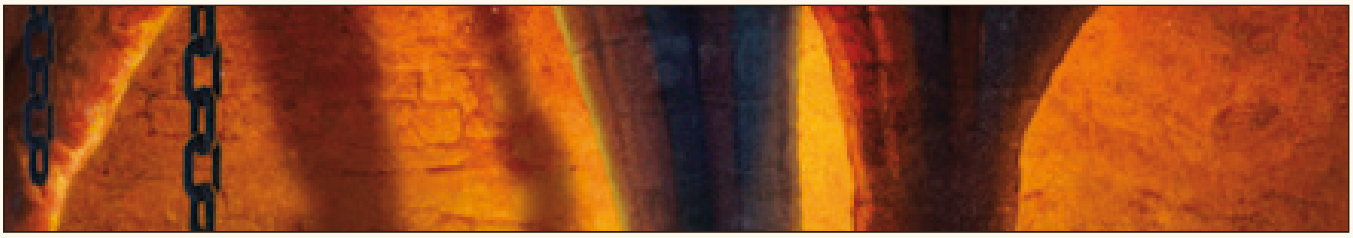
At the end of The Cask of Amontillado, the narrator leaves Fortunato to his death in the catacombs. Lady Fortunato soon becomes worried about her husband's disappearance and reports the matter to the police. Some people at the carnival saw the narrator leaving with Fortunato, so he is called in for questioning. 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.

1. Please can you describe your relationship with Fortunato?

2. 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?

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

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



Live the story in the iClassics app
Interactive · Immersive · Illustrated