Character Analysis

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. Match the characteristics provided with each of the characters. Defiant and Hedonistic are each used twice.

Sagacious | Hale | Eccentric | Defiant | Defiant | Hedonistic | Hedonistic | Disconcerted | A multitude of dreams | Shocking | Horrifying | Bold | Solemn



PRINCE PROSPERO



THE GUESTS



THE MUMMER

2. Now write your own description of one character, using the words given.

3. Extension: create a potential social media profile for one of the characters.

Name:	Age:
Location:	Hobbies:
Likes:	Dislikes:
Website:	Favourite quotes:

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	"No pestilence had ever been so fatal, or so hideous."	A	
2	"The apartments were so irregularly disposed that the vision embraced but little more than one at a time."	B	
3	"the effect of the fire-light that streamed upon the dark hanging through the blood-tinted panes, was ghastly in the extreme"	C	
4	"and while the chimes of the clock yet rang, it was observed that the giddiest grew pale, and the more aged and sedate passed their hands over their brows as if in confused revery or meditation"	D	
5	"And these – the dreams – writhed in and about, taking hue from the rooms, and causing the wild music of the orchestra to seem as the echo of their steps."	E	
6	"But the mummer had gone so far as to assume the type of Red Death."	F	

Glossary

Name: _____

Date: _____

Pestilence: (n) a fatal epidemic disease

Avatar: (n) an incarnation or embodiment of something

Profuse: (adj) extreme or plentiful

Dissolution: (n) death

Sagacious: (adj) wise or shrewd

Dominion: (n) territory

Hale: (adj) strong and healthy

Castellated: (adj) with battlements

August: (adj) respected and impressive

Ingress: (n) the act of entering

Egress: (n) the act of exiting

Improvisatori: (n) improvisers

Voluptuous: (adj) full of sensual pleasure

Masquerade ball: (n) a party where people wear disguises

Vista: (n) a view

Novel: (adj) new and interesting

Brazier: (n) a pan or stand for holding lighted coals

Gaudy: (adj) extravagant and over the top

Countenance: (n) face

Harken: (v) to listen

Sedate: (adj) calm, dignified

Revery: (n) a daydream

Folly: (n) foolishness

Disconcert: (v) to unsettle

Decora: (n) norms of good taste and propriety

Piquancy: (n) interest

Hernani: (n) a play set in a Spanish court in 1519, by Victor Hugo

Wanton: (adj) immodest or unrestrained

Sable: (adj) black

Emphatic: (adj) forcible and clear

Disapprobation: (n) strong disapproval

Out-Herod: (v) to exceed in violence or extravagance (Herod the Great was a violent ruler)

Blasphemous: (adj) offensive to God or sacred things

Impetuous: (adj) quick and without care

Cerements: (n) waxed cloths for wrapping a corpse

Tangible: (adj) perceptible by touch

Habiliments: (n) clothing

Visage: (n) face

Mummer: (n) a masked performer

Vesture: (n) clothing

Revel: (v) to enjoy oneself noisily

BEFORE YOU READ

Imagine you could shut the whole world out of your home. Who would you let in, and what would you do to forget what is happening outside?

Can you hide from something that is inevitable? What do you think?



Quiz

Name: _____

Date: _____

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

1. What are the symptoms of the Red Death?

(a) Pain, dizziness, bleeding and death.

(b) Vomiting, delirium and bleeding.

(c) Madness and bleeding.

2. How long does it take for someone to die from the Red Death?

(a) Half an hour.

(b) 2 days.

(c) 3 hours.

3. Why did the courtiers weld the bolts of the abbey?

(a) To prevent contagious people from getting in.

(b) To stop robbery.

(c) To stop people from getting in or out.

4. How long did Prince Prospero and his guests live in the abbey before the masquerade ball?

(a) 10 years.

(b) 3 or 4 days.

(c) 5 or 6 months.

5. How many rooms was the masquerade ball held in?

(a) 1

(b) 7

(c) 10

6. What colours were the decorations in the rooms?

(a) Blue, purple, green, orange, white, violet, black.

(b) Blue, green, pink, red, black, white.

(c) Blue, red, yellow, black, white, gold, silver.

7. What colour was the window in the 7th room?

(a) Black.

(b) Blue.

(c) Red.

8. Where did the light in the party come from?

(a) Sunlight streaming through the windows.

(b) From candles carried by servants.

(c) From braziers in the corridor behind the windows.

9. How did the guests react to the chiming of the clock?

(a) They grew nervous and fell into confused meditation.

(b) They were annoyed by its constant interruptions.

(c) They completely ignored it.

Quiz

Name: _____

Date: _____

10. How do the party guests react to the costume of the masked figure?

(a) They are disappointed.

(b) They are disgusted.

(c) They are excited.

11. How does the mummer move amongst the guests?

(a) Slowly and solemnly.

(b) In an agitated manner.

(c) He stands still in the corner staring at Prince Prospero.

12. What does Prince Prospero threaten to do to the mummer?

(a) Lock him in a dungeon.

(b) Cut his head off.

(c) Hang him from the battlements.

13. Why don't any of the guests stop the mummer?

(a) A certain nameless awe prevents them.

(b) They are angry at Prince Prospero.

(c) They are scared of catching the Red Death.

14. What else happens as all the guests die?

(a) The abbey begins to crumble.

(b) The clock stops and the lights go out.

(c) The mummer laughs evilly.



If you read it in the iClassics app

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

1. What image appears in the red sun at the start of the story?

2. How many rooms can you see in the animation on page 4?

3. What happens to the man in the stained-glass window when you tap him?

4. How many times does the clock on page 6 strike?

5. How many of the guests' heads wobble when you tap them?

6. What colour is the mummer's cloak?

7. What happens when you tap the image of the angry Prince Prospero?

8. What appears in the corner of the penultimate page?

Think like a detective

Name: _____

Date: _____

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

1. Prince Prospero seals a thousand friends inside an abbey while his people die outside. Is he brave, foolish or arrogant? Defend your view with evidence.

2. The Red Death arrives as a guest, in costume, in the middle of the party. What might the mummer represent, and why does nobody stop him?

3. Every hour the clock's chime makes the dancers pause. What is Poe suggesting about time? What does the final image, with the clock stopped and the lights out, add?

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

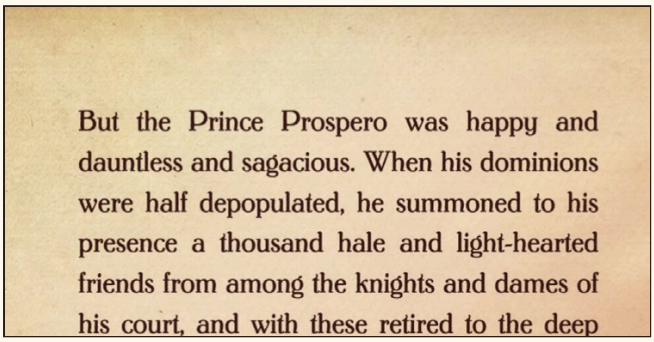
Writing

Name: _____

Date: _____

Please answer the questions below with a written response, based on the excerpts from the text provided.

1.

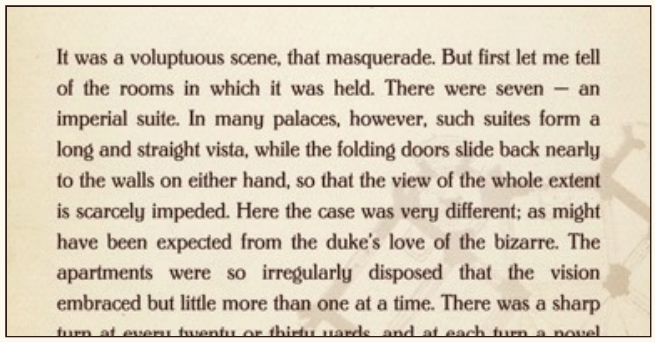


But the Prince Prospero was happy and dauntless and sagacious. When his dominions were half depopulated, he summoned to his presence a thousand hale and light-hearted friends from among the knights and dames of his court, and with these retired to the deep

AS PRINCE PROSPERO

Write a public status to all your followers (and subjects) announcing your plan to move into the Abbey. Explain why you are doing it.

2.

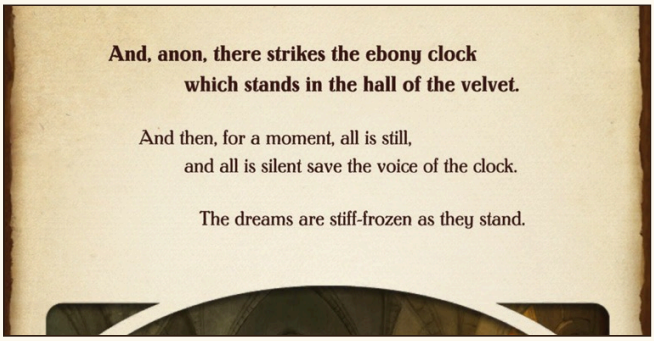


It was a voluptuous scene, that masquerade. But first let me tell of the rooms in which it was held. There were seven — an imperial suite. In many palaces, however, such suites form a long and straight vista, while the folding doors slide back nearly to the walls on either hand, so that the view of the whole extent is scarcely impeded. Here the case was very different; as might have been expected from the duke's love of the bizarre. The apartments were so irregularly disposed that the vision embraced but little more than one at a time. There was a sharp

AS ONE OF THE GUESTS

Write a public status expressing your excitement about Prince Prospero's masquerade ball tonight. Describe Prince Prospero's taste and what you think the party will be like.

3.



And, anon, there strikes the ebony clock
which stands in the hall of the velvet.

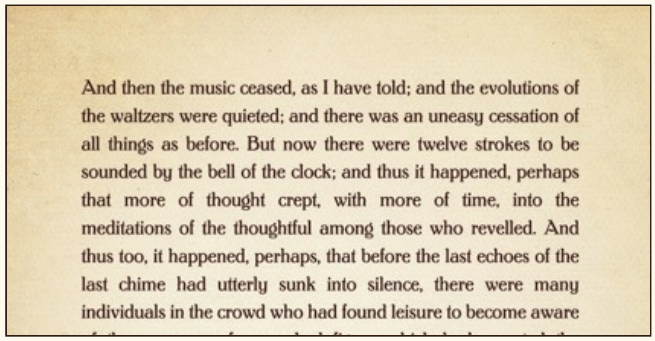
And then, for a moment, all is still,
and all is silent save the voice of the clock.

The dreams are stiff-frozen as they stand.

AS ONE OF THE GUESTS

Write a private message to another of the guests asking if they share your feelings of anxiety when the clock strikes. Describe how you feel and suggest a reason it might be making you feel this way.

4.



And then the music ceased, as I have told; and the evolutions of the waltzers were quieted; and there was an uneasy cessation of all things as before. But now there were twelve strokes to be sounded by the bell of the clock; and thus it happened, perhaps that more of thought crept, with more of time, into the meditations of the thoughtful among those who revelled. And thus too, it happened, perhaps, that before the last echoes of the last chime had utterly sunk into silence, there were many individuals in the crowd who had found leisure to become aware

AS THE MUMMER

Write a public status to your followers telling them that you're on your way to Prince Prospero's party and what you are planning to do. Explain why you are doing this.

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