

Name: _____ Block: _____

Date: _____

Unit 1: Narrative Elements

“The Cask of Amontillado” Study Guide

Directions: Answer the following questions as we read the selection.

1. What key detail is missing from Montresor’s account of his plot against Fortunato? How does this omission raise certain questions about Montresor himself?
2. As a result of this omission, is Montresor a reliable or unreliable narrator? Is the reader to believe, as Montresor does, that his revenge is justified?
3. What is ironic about the manner in which Fortunato is dressed? Be as specific as you can.
4. Why is it convenient that the attendants have absconded to celebrate the carnival?
5. Where does Montresor lead Fortunato?
6. Why might Montresor be carrying a trowel, or shovel? What can you guess about his plans?
7. How does Poe heighten the mood of suspense and terror toward the end of the story?
8. What might be ironic about Fortunato’s name?
9. The name “Montresor” is a combination of French words meaning ‘to show fate’ and his name can also be literally translated to ‘my treasure.’ How, then, is Montresor’s name significant in terms of his characterization?
10. Summarize the final paragraph of the story. What can you infer about Montresor’s state of mind when he says that his “heart grew sick—on account of the dampness of the catacombs.”