

Name _____

Period _____

"The Cask of Amontillado"

Pre-Activity Questions

1. Has anyone ever done anything to you that made you want to get revenge on them? What did they do?
2. Have you ever gotten revenge on someone for something they did to you? What did you do to them in return? Why did you feel a need to get revenge?
3. Explain how the revenge made you feel? Did you get caught? If you had gotten caught, would that have changed the feeling the revenge gave you? Explain.

Prediction Prompt: Look through the pages of "The Cask of Amontillado." Pay attention to the pictures and to the title of the short story. Based on your observations and what you know about Edgar Allen Poe, what do you think this story will be about? Provide at least two specific examples/reasons to support your response.

Your Prediction

Based on the title of the story and the pictures throughout the book, I believe this story will be about _____

Examples to Support

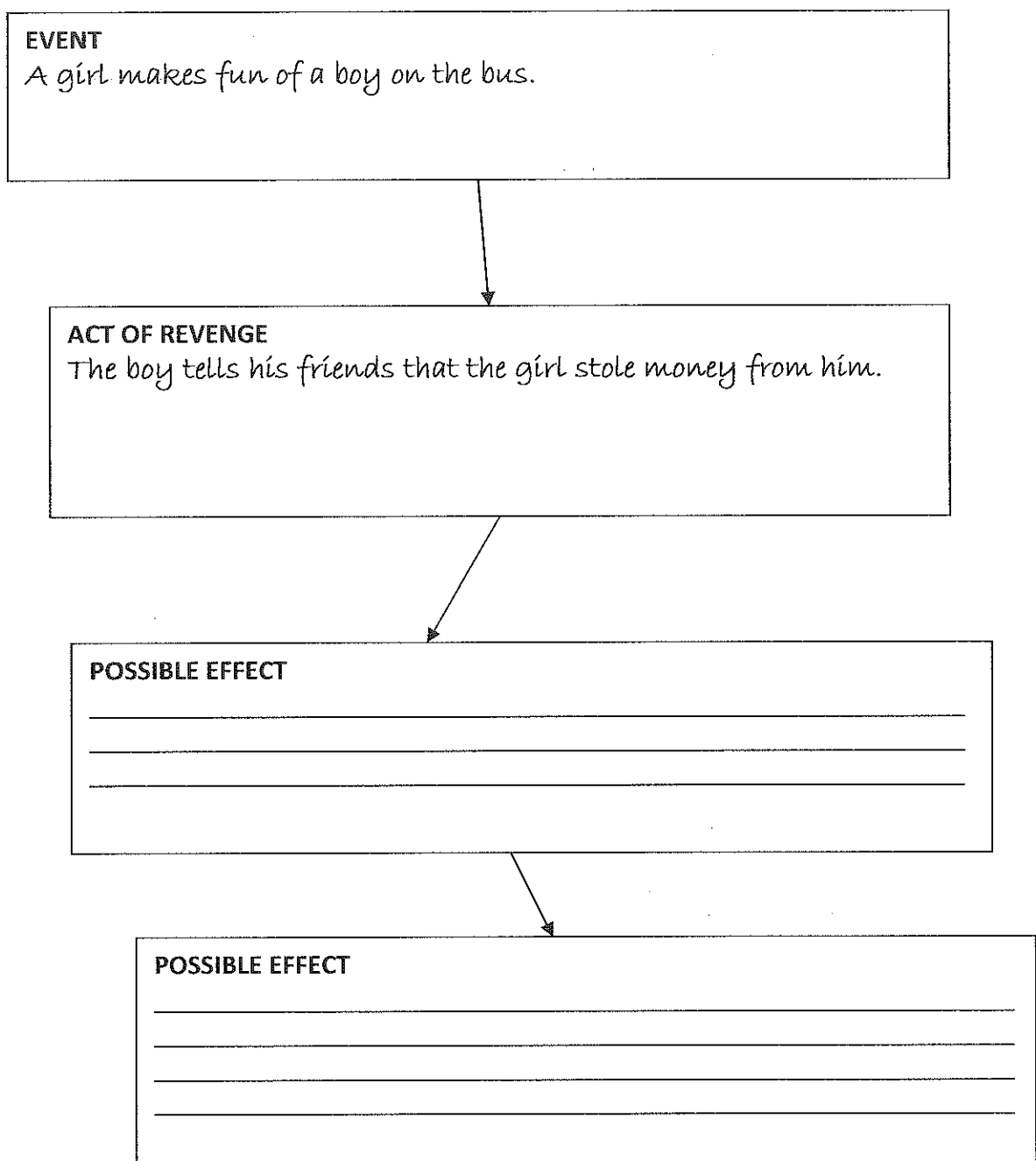
1.

2.

Is Revenge Ever Justified?

Has anyone ever made you so angry that you just wished you could get even? If so, you have felt the need for revenge. While people sometimes feel that revenge is necessary, others know that revenge can lead to more problems.

CHART IT: An act of revenge often causes a chain reaction, and the effects can go on for months or years. With a partner, complete the sequence chart shown below. Take turns thinking of a chain of possible effects that could arise from the initial acts of revenge.



GRAPHIC ORGANIZER FOR ACTIVE READING

The Cask of Amontillado

Edgar Allan Poe

Pupil's Edition page 232

Revenge—Its Grisly Effects

"The Cask of Amontillado" is a story of revenge and some of its chilling effects. Montresor says that he has received a thousand injuries from Fortunato and that Fortunato has insulted him. Montresor considers these injuries and insults to be just cause for the desire for revenge that consumes him.

Using your own knowledge of stories, books, TV shows, or movies, add the names of three other characters to the top row of stones. Then, in the stones below each name, describe what caused the character to seek revenge and the effects of revenge on each character's personality. An example has been done for you.

Wall of Revenge				
Character:	Montresor			
Cause:	Feeling slighted			
Effects:	Obsession, murder			

In your opinion, what is a common pattern among the "effects" of revenge? Why?

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"The Author's Style"

Poe's Sinister Stylings

Style is the particular way in which something is written. Word choice, sentence length, imagery, and tone all contribute to a writer's style. Part of Poe's genius comes from the slightly different style he creates for each one of his tales, depending on who's telling the story and what effect or impact Poe wants the story to have.

Read the excerpts from the openings of three famous Poe stories on page 217 of your textbook. Study the "Key Aspects of Poe's Style" at the top of the page. Read each opening carefully, and complete the following chart.

Find several examples of each stylistic device in the passages. Decide what effect Poe was trying to create in each case.

Stylistic Device	Example from excerpt
Short sentences or sentences with dashes and other interruptions	
Repeated or italicized words that draw attention to the narrator or to a concept	
Frequent use of first-person point-of-view (I, me, myself, etc.)	
Rhythm that conveys the intensity of the narrator's thoughts	

Applications: Choose one activity listed below to complete with your group.

1. Working with your group, rewrite one of the opening passages, expressing the same ideas but in a simpler language. Then read your version and the original aloud, and compare them. What's missing in the changed version? Be prepared to share your observations with the class.
2. Choose one of the three openings, and write a continuation of the story in the style that Poe has established. Then entertain the rest of the class with a reading of the piece.
3. With your group, give each opening a dramatic reading to reveal the different characters and moods expressed through Poe's style. The rest of the class will discuss the differences they hear in each of these oral interpretations.

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Vocabulary

"The Cask of Amontillado" by Edgar Allan Poe



Word / Part of Speech	Definition	Picture / Trick to Remember
Accost (verb)		
Destined (adjective)	Determined beforehand; fated	
Fetter (verb)	To restrain with chains or shackles	
Implore (verb)		
Impunity (noun)		
Preclude (verb)	To make impossible, especially by taking action in advance; prevent	
Repose (verb)		
Subside (verb)	To become less agitated or active; lessen	
Termination (noun)		
Virtuoso (adjective)		

Words to Own**The Cask of Amontillado**

Edgar Allan Poe

Pupil's Edition page 243

Synonyms and Antonyms

Below are ten word pairs. The first word in each pair is a Word to Own. For each numbered pair, write S in the blank if the second word in the pair is a synonym of the Word to Own, or A if the word is an antonym. You may need a dictionary or a thesaurus for this activity.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| _____ 1. impose (upon) : burden | _____ 6. impunity : exemption |
| _____ 2. retribution : retaliation | _____ 7. succession : precedence |
| _____ 3. endeavored : avoided | _____ 8. precluded : included |
| _____ 4. obstinate : tenacious | _____ 9. recoiling : repulsing |
| _____ 5. immolation : creation | _____ 10. connoisseurship : apprenticeship |

Suffixes

A suffix is a word part added to the end of a root or base word. A suffix changes a word's meaning and part of speech. Complete the chart below by finding the root or base of each Word to Own, the definition and part of speech of the root or base, and the definition of each suffix. Finally, tell what the definition of the Word to Own is, and give its part of speech. You may need to use a dictionary. Some parts of the chart have been filled in for you.

Word to Own	Root or Base Word & Definition	Root or Base Word's Part of Speech	Word to Own's Suffix & Definition of Suffix	Word to Own's Definition	Word to Own's Part of Speech
retribution	<i>retributus</i> (Latin) —to repay	verb	—ion—the act or condition of	punishment	noun
impunity	<i>impunis</i> (Latin) —free from punishment				
obstinate			—ate—of or characteristic of		
connoisseurship				expert knowledge	
recoiling		verb			

The Cask of Amontillado (page 207)**Words to Know SkillBuilder****Words to Know**

accost	fetter	impunity	repose	termination
destined	implore	preclude	subside	virtuoso

A. Each of the following sentences suggests a word in the word list. The word itself is hidden in the sentence. Underline the hidden word and then write it on the line. An example, using another word from the story, has been done for you.

Example: Using a tool like a shovel, I dug the first row. Ellen came along behind me, putting the seeds in place.

travel

The guy in the monster outfit stopped me with a paw and snarled right in my face. I said, "Back off, Mac. Costume party or no costume party, I'm not putting up with this."

(1)

We'll scoop up the money and take off in the blimp. Unity is the key here. If we stick together, we'll get away with it for sure!

(2)

Oh, no! An all-you-can-eat buffet! Terrible things will happen to my diet if you don't handcuff me and chain me to my chair!

(3)

It has a certain poetic sound, but don't say, "He was bound from birth to be the baddest." In educated speech, that would be "Fated to be the worst," even if doesn't sound as good.

(4)

In the book's drawings, cats of all kinds are posed on chairs and sofas, sleeping soundly and dreaming of mice.

(5)

B. For each phrase in the first column, find the phrase in the second column that is closest in meaning. Write the letter of that phrase in the blank.

_____ 1. to ask again	A. virtuoso, better than so-so
_____ 2. to snugly rest	B. to implore some more
_____ 3. to decline everywhere	C. to fetter better
_____ 4. the end of a holiday	D. to cozily repose
_____ 5. highly skilled, above average	E. to subside worldwide
_____ 6. to more effectively restrain	F. to preclude a brooding mood
_____ 7. to prevent a sad frame of mind	G. an opportunity for impunity
_____ 8. the chance to avoid consequences	H. the termination of a vacation

C. Describe Montresor's crime in a statement that could be used to support a charge of murder against him. Use at least **five** of the Words to Know.

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Reading Strategies Chart – “The Cask of Amontillado”

Directions: As we read this short story, use the following reading strategies to help you understand and interact with the text. Track your thoughts in the space provided on this handout.

P – Write a one sentence prediction. What do you think will happen next?

V – Copy the line(s) from the story that helped form a picture in your mind.

C – Write a connection you may have with the story. How does it connect back to the story?

Cl – Summarize and clarify a confusing passage in the story. Make sense of what you read.

E – Evaluate and form an opinion at any point in the story.

Q – What questions do you have while you read?

Pages 209 - 211

Reading Strategy/ Page Number	Visualization, Clarification, Question(s), Prediction, Connection, or Evaluation

Name _____

Period _____

"The Cask of Amontillado"

Discussion Guide

PART I: Pages 209 – 211

1. **Page 209** What terms does Montresor set up for his revenge?

2. **Page 209** Who is Fortunado? Who is the narrator? Why does the narrator intend revenge?

3. **Page 210** Based on the exchange between Montresor and Fortunado, what can you infer about each of their characters?

4. **Page 210** What aspect of Montresor's character is reinforced by the statement, "I well knew"?

5. **Page 210** Describe the feeling or mood that is established toward the end of this page.

6. **Page 211** Explain the verbal irony in Fortunado's remark and Montresor's reply.

7. **Page 211** What was Fortunado's reaction to the motto of the Montresors?

Pages 212 - 214

Reading Strategy/ Page Number	Visualization, Clarification, Question(s), Prediction, Connection, or Evaluation

PART II: Pages 212-214

1. **Page 212** Look at the footnote on p. 211, which explains the Freemason organization. Do you think Montresor is in fact a member of such an organization? Explain the humor in Montresor's gesture.

2. **Page 212** What do you think Montresor plans to do to Fortunado?

3. **Page 212** What is the mood at this point in the story?

4. **Page 212** What is ironic about Montresor's imploring or begging?

5. **Page 214** What do you think Montresor's self-admission that his "heart grew sick" reveals about his character?

6. **Page 214** Describe and summarize Montresor's revenge.

7. **Page 214** The reasons for Montresor's revenge remain unrevealed at the story's conclusion. How does this affect your view of the two main characters?

The Cask of Amontillado (page 207)

Active Reading SkillBuilder

Making Inferences

Making an **inference** is figuring something out on the basis of evidence. Readers usually infer by combining clues in the text with what they already know from their own experiences or other reading. Think about the actions, thoughts, and feelings of the narrator in "The Cask of Amontillado." Look for insights into his motivation. Record any observations that provide clues about the narrator's state of mind.

What the Narrator Says	What I Can Infer
<i>The thousand injuries of Fortunato I had borne as I best could; but when he ventured upon insult, I vowed revenge.</i>	<i>The narrator feels that he has been injured by Fortunato's insults.</i>

The Cask of Amontillado (page 207)**Literary Analysis SkillBuilder****Mood**

The overall feeling or atmosphere that a writer creates for the reader is called **mood**.

Descriptive words, the setting, and figurative language, as well as the sound and rhythm of the language the writer uses, contribute to the mood of a work. On the chart below, list examples of passages that help create the mood of the story. Identify the kind of mood that is created and explain how the mood is developed.

Passage	Mood that Is Created	How Mood Is Developed
<i>"We are below the river's bed. The drops of moisture trickle among the bones."</i>	<i>gloomy, creepy, chilly, dark and damp</i>	<i>descriptive words, setting</i>

Follow Up: How do you react to the overall mood of this story? Discuss your thoughts and feelings with a group of classmates.

The Cask of the Amontillado (page 219)**Grammar SkillBuilder: Compound Verbs**

Key Concept: Writers use compound verbs to combine several short sentences into longer, more interesting sentences.

Compound Verbs

A **compound verb** in a sentence consists of two or more verbs that have the same subject and are connected by a conjunction. Some conjunctions that may connect verbs are *and*, *but*, and *or*. If the compound verb has three or more verbs, a comma follows each verb or verb phrase except the last.

"We **came** at length to the foot of the descent **and stood** together on the damp ground of the catacombs of the Montresors." (*We* is the subject of both verbs.)

Activity

Use compound verbs to combine each set of sentences into a single sentence.

Example: Montresor selects a bottle of Medoc. He opens it. He urges Fortunato to drink.

Rewritten: Montresor selects a bottle of Medoc, opens it, and urges Fortunato to drink.

1. Montresor has been insulted by Fortunato. He vows revenge.
2. Montresor, a connoisseur of Italian wines, buys quantities of it whenever possible. He stores them in his wine cellar.
3. Meeting Fortunato at the carnival, Montresor greets him warmly. He tells him about the Amontillado. He asks him to come and taste it.
4. Montresor hands Fortunato a lighted torch. He cautions Fortunato to watch his step.
5. Fortunato raises the Medoc to his lips. He tastes it. He nods his approval.
6. As they advance, the niter increases. It hangs like moss upon the vaults.
7. The interior recess was constructed for no special use. It was simply formed by the space between two large supports of the roof.
8. Fortunato steps unsteadily forward. He reaches the end of the interior recess. He stands there bewildered.
9. Montresor uncovers a quantity of stone and mortar. He begins to wall up the entrance to the recess.
10. Before completing the wall, Montresor pauses. He holds the torch over it. He allows some light to fall upon the chained Fortunato.

Levels of Language

A key to good writing is choosing appropriate language for your purpose and audience. Writers usually use standard English, language that follows conventional rules of usage. Standard English may be formal or informal, as the chart below shows.

	Formal English	Informal English
Tone	Serious, academic, reserved	Casual, conversational, personal
Characteristics	Advanced vocabulary, long sentences, no contractions	Simpler vocabulary, shorter sentences, contractions
Type of Writing	Report, business letter, job application	Friendly letter, dialogue, article
Mechanics	Correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation	Correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation

Using Levels of Language Identify each sentence as formal or informal.

1. Lizabeth leaped furiously into the mounds of marigolds and pulled madly, trampling and destroying the perfect yellow blooms.
2. "Gee, Lizabeth, I don't know what to say."
3. She yelled over to them and told them to get moving.
4. After reading a story about the day President Kennedy was assassinated, we will take the roles of ordinary citizens and act out our reactions to the event.

Point of View

The **point of view** in a piece of fiction or nonfiction is the perspective from which it is told.

- In the **first-person point of view**, the narrator is a participant in the action and creates a sense of immediacy by using the pronouns *I* and *we*.
- In the **second-person point of view**, often used to give advice or directions, the writer uses the pronoun *you* to address the reader.
- The **third-person point of view** creates a sense of objectivity and distance because the narrator has access to all the characters' thoughts and actions. The writer uses the pronouns *he*, *she*, *it*, and *they* to describe the characters.

Identifying Point of View Identify the point of view used in each of the passages below. Then describe the impact you feel this point of view creates.

1. The princess smiled and walked up to the table and picked up the present she liked the most. It was the platinum-and-sapphire jewel box, the gift of the third prince.

—James Thurber, from *"The Princess and the Tin Box"*

2. I was fifteen years old. Although I had never seen the Wonder Horse, he filled my imagination and fired my ambition. I used to listen open-mouthed as my father and the ranch hands talked about the phantom horse who turned into mist and air and nothingness when he was trapped.

—Sabine R. Ulibarri, from *"My Wonder Horse"*

Varying the Point of View Choose a topic from the list below and write two separate paragraphs on it, each from a different point of view. Label the point of view at the beginning of each paragraph.

attending a concert

taking a bicycle trip

buying clothes

using a computer

Grammar Check

Directions: Identify the type of error, if any, in each underlined passage, and circle the letter next to the correct answer.

Centuries ago, christians buried their dead in

1

catacombs, which are winding tunnels. Later,

wealthy familys built catacombs beneath their

2

homes. Because these chambers were dark and cool

3

they were suitable not only for burial but also for

storing wine. Fortunato in Poe's story stumbles into

a catacomb that is used for both.

4

1. _____

- A Spelling
- B Capitalization
- C Punctuation
- D No error

2. _____

- F Spelling
- G Capitalization
- H Punctuation
- J No error

3. _____

- A Spelling
- B Capitalization
- C Punctuation
- D No error

4. _____

- F Spelling
- G Capitalization
- H Punctuation
- J No error

GRAMMAR LINK**The Cask of Amontillado**

Edgar Allan Poe

Pupil's Edition page 243

Dialogue—Who's Talking?**ROB:** Ms. Jenkes said that Poe got killer headaches.**AMY:** Really?**ROB:** Well, actually she said, "Poe may have suffered from migraines."

How is Rob's first statement different from his second? His first statement is a rewording of his teacher's comment about Poe. His second statement shows exactly what Ms. Jenkes' words were. Quotation marks are used to enclose a direct quotation—a person's exact words. Do not use quotation marks to enclose an indirect quotation—a rewording of a direct quotation.

DIRECT: Montresor replied, "I have my doubts."**INDIRECT:** Montresor replied that he had his doubts.

Below are some rules to keep in mind when using quotation marks.

1. Direct quotations begin with a capital letter.	"My dear Fortunato, you are luckily met."
2. When a quoted sentence is interrupted by a speaker tag, the second part of the sentence begins with a small letter.	"Come," I said, with decision, "we will go back; your health is precious."
3. A direct quotation is set off from the rest of the sentence by a comma, a question mark, or an exclamation point—not by a period.	NONSTANDARD: "It is nothing," he said, at last. STANDARD: "It is nothing," he said, at last.
4. When used with quotation marks, the other marks of quotation are placed according to the following rules. a. Commas and periods go inside the closing quotation marks. b. Semicolons and colons go outside the closing quotation marks. c. Question marks and exclamation points go inside the closing quotation marks if the quotation itself is a question or an exclamation. Otherwise, they are placed outside.	"The Montresors," I replied, "were a great and numerous family." At one point, Montresor says, "A wrong is unredressed when retribution overtakes its redresser"; what does he mean? "Niter?" he asked, at length. How I jumped when Montresor said he was thrust backward by "a succession of loud and shrill screams"!
5. Use single quotation marks to enclose a quotation within a quotation.	"All Fortunato ever seems to say is 'Amontillado!'" said Nora.
6. In dialogue, begin a new paragraph every time the speaker changes, and enclose the speaker's words in quotations.	"How long have you had that cough?" "Ugh! Ugh! Ugh!—Ugh! Ugh! Ugh!—Ugh! Ugh! Ugh!—Ugh! Ugh! Ugh! . . ."

EXERCISE A Using Quotation Marks to Change Meaning

Change the meaning of the sentences below by adding quotation marks. Add or change other punctuation and capitalization as necessary.

EXAMPLE: Fortunato said Montresor is a quack.

"Fortunato," said Montresor, "is a quack."

1. Fortunato, I cry. Can't you hear me?

2. Poe said the teacher was a very disturbed individual.

3. Luchesi says Fortunato is an ignoramus.

4. Montresor declares Nigel must feel somewhat guilty for walling up his poor friend.

5. "Yes," I said for the love of God.

EXERCISE B Proofreading Paragraphs

The following paragraphs contain errors in the use of capitalization, quotation marks, and other punctuation. Correct the errors, and indicate where paragraphs should indent. A few corrections have been made as examples.

Montresor crept up the stair of his mansion after his evening's work. Suddenly, a hand clutched his shoulder, and a voice that put him in mind of a foghorn snarled, "Montresor, where have you been? And what are you hiding under your roquelaure?" "Oh, Berthe, Montresor stammered. You were supposed to sneak out tonight like the other servants, I mean . . ." "WHAT do you mean? You explicitly told us to stay *in*". "Just so, my faithful housekeeper, just so. Well, toodle-loo. I'm off to bed".

"That's right, Sir, you go on. I'm off to do some cleaning in the cellar".

Montresor froze in his tracks. Naturally, he was not keen for Berthe to be nosing around the cellar. Now, Berthe, he said, I really don't think you should, it's so damp, and there's niter everywhere! Berthe was beginning to bustle toward the cellar door. Montresor had to act. "Let me lead you, if you must go, he said, tucking his trowel under his cloak. after all, it's dark, and only I know the way . . ."