Reading Guide Questions for “The Cask of Amontillado” by Edgar Allen Poe

1. We see that the story is told from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ person point of view.
2. What is the **setting** of the story? Why do you think Poe chose that time of year specifically for the story?
3. The phrase, “**The thousand injuries of Fortunato I had borne as best I could**,” is an example of what **literary** term? **Explain your answer.**
4. What does the phrase, “**Revenge is a dish best served cold**,” mean?
5. According to Montresor, what has Fortunato done to deserve revenge?
6. What does the narrator's smiling at the thought of Fortunato's death tell you about his character? What might this tell you about his **mental state**?
7. Characterize Fortunato using details from the book in your answer on page **174**. How is his **costume** an important part of his character.
8. Why is Montressor glad to see Fortunato? What **conclusion** can you draw about the **narrator’s character**?
9. What is the topic of conversation between Montressor and Fortunato?
10. How does the narrator lure Fortunato to his palace? What does the narrator's (Montressor’s) strategy tell you about him?
11. Why does the narrator mention Luchesi? What is the outcome for doing so, for mentioning Luchesi?
12. Why does Montresor appear concerned about Fortunato’s health? Is he being truthful or not?
13. How did Montresor know that the house would be empty?
14. In your own words, describe the catacombs that Fortunato is led through. (**You will continue to add to this as we read the story.)**
15. How is this statement **ironic**, “**The cough is a mere nothing; it will not kill me. I shall not die of a cough**.” Explain.
16. Why does Montresor make sure Fortunato has drunk a lot of wine while traversing through the catacombs?
17. What images appear on Montresor's coat of arms? What do the images and motto suggest about the Montresors?
18. Why is Fortunato making such a big deal that Montressor **is not really a mason**?
19. What is the sign that Montressor provides to Fortunato to show that he, Montresor is truly a mason? What is this “sign”, this implement used for?
20. On page 177 there is a good description of the catacombs. Add this detail to yours.. it will be most helpful later on… I promise.. ☺
21. What is Luchresi’s **TRUE** role in the story?
22. Why doesMontressor say to Fortunato, “Once more let me implore you to return,” even after he has secured him safely with the chains? What does the timing of such words lead you to infer about Montressor’s **TRUE** character?
23. Why do you think that Fortunato is laughing towards the end of the wall being finished?
24. What do these lines infer, “**For half a century no mortal has disturbed them [the bones**].”
25. Find an example of each of the following: verbal irony, dramatic irony, and situational