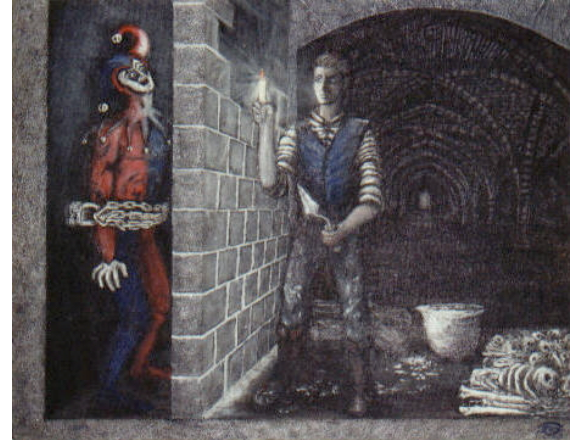


"THE CASK OF AMONTILLADO"

QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

Directions: Use the following questions as a "spring-board" to discuss "The Cask of Amontillado" by Edgar Allan Poe. Elect someone in your group to take notes (on a separate sheet of paper) as you respond to the questions. Each person in the group must contribute to the conversation, and their opinions should be clear from the notes each group member takes. You will turn in your discussion notes at the end of the activity.

1. The narrator tells us that he had dealt with "injuries" and finally "insults" from Fortunato. What examples can you find in the story that support the narrator's perception that Fortunato is rude?
2. Again Poe's narrator seems to be talking to someone. Who might Montresor be talking to? Why is he talking to this person/these people?
3. Re-read the last paragraph of the story? Does Montresor feel any remorse for his actions? Explain your answer.
4. Fortunato, who has been out enjoying Carnival, is wearing a clown's hat. Think about what you generally associate with clowns. Symbolically, why is this an interesting and appropriate costume choice by Poe?
5. Has Montresor committed the "perfect crime"? Explain your reasoning.
6. If caught, could Montresor's lawyer offer a plea of insanity as a defense for the murder of Fortunato? On what grounds could Montresor's lawyer argue that his client was insane at the time of the murder? How could Fortunato's lawyer prove Montresor was sane?



7. Poe is a master at creating an eerie, suspenseful mood in his stories. Dig back into the text of this story and write down two lines that help establish this mood. (Yes - write down the full line).
8. What fueled Montresor's desire to seek revenge? What is the difference between justice and revenge?
9. Montresor acts as judge, jury, and executioner of Fortunato. Is there any crime/offense that Fortunato could have unwittingly committed that would make Montresor's rage seem reasonable to you? Do you think individuals are ever justified in taking justice into their own hands? Explain your thoughts.