

Edgar Allan Poe

“The Cask of Amontillado” p. 217

1. What characteristics imply the narrator may be insane?
In contrast, what shows he may *not* be insane?
2. Can you trust the protagonist’s details of events?
3. A crucial element in the story is Montresor’s family crest. In what manner do the elements which make up its design appear important to the plot?
4. What are the “thousands of injuries” which the protagonist mentions?
5. What is ironic about the last statement? What other ironic devices emerge from the text upon closer inspection?
6. How much are Montresor and Fortunato similar/different in characteristics?

“The Tell-Tale Heart” *supplemental handout*

1. Is the protagonist male or female? What characteristics define your theory?
2. Why is the point of view crucial to this story?
3. What characteristics imply the narrator may be insane?
In contrast, what shows the narrator may *not* be insane?
4. What is the relationship between the old man and the narrator?
5. Is this narrator reliable source of information?
6. What ironic devices emerge from the text upon closer inspection?

Compare this tale with “The Cask of Amontillado”.

How are the motivations of the narrators different from one another?

In what manner do the antagonists provoke the individual protagonists?

How are the plots similar?