

ANALYZING LITERATURE

RECALL AND INTERPRET

1. How does Montresor get Fortunato to come with him to his vaults? What is Montresor's motive for leading Fortunato there?
2. What kind of relationship does Montresor have with the people who take care of his home? What does this reveal about him?
3. Describe the conversation between Montresor and Fortunato as they walk in the catacombs. What is *ironic* about Montresor's concern for Fortunato's health? (See Literary Terms Handbook, page R7)
4. Describe Fortunato's state of mind as Montresor walls in the entrance to the niche. Include details from the story in your answer.
5. How does Montresor feel about what he has done? In your response, consider why he might be telling the story after so many years.

EVALUATE AND CONNECT

6. In your opinion, did Montresor commit the perfect crime? Explain.
7. Might the story be better or worse if you knew what Fortunato did or said to make Montresor take such terrible revenge? Explain.
8. Do you believe that Montresor resolves his conflict with Fortunato? Why or why not? What else could Montresor have done to solve his problem?
9. In your opinion, why did Poe choose to write from the **first-person point of view**, describing only Montresor's thoughts and not Fortunato's?
10. What **theme**, or perception about life or human nature, does Poe communicate in this story?

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