

## 03.02 Assignment Instructions

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**Directions:** Using complete sentences, answer the following questions about the themes in "The Cask of Amontillado":

1. How does the author want the reader to feel while reading "The Cask of Amontillado"?

**It seems as if the author wants to create a feeling of suspense throughout the story. You don't know what exactly is going to happen next in the story, so he wants the reader to be on edge with what is going to happen next.**

2. What techniques does the author use to help you visualize the place, the people, and the events that are taking place within the story?

**The author does a really good job of describing the details of the story to the viewer, in a way that they can visualize them all as they are reading the story. For example, he uses very descriptive details throughout the story. He describes the story's setting through words such as cold, damp, and afflicted. He also uses good description to describe what the people look like. For example, when he was describing Fortunato at the beginning of the story, he described his clothes saying, "He had on a tight-fitting parti-striped dress and his head was surmounted by the conical cap and bells."**

3. How has the author described the characters to make them seem like real people?

**Like I said before, the author does a good job of describing the characters. The author states, "He accosted me with excessive warmth, for he had been drinking much. The man wore motley. He had on a tight-fitting parti-striped dress and his head was surmounted by the conical cap and bells." He also does a good job of using dialogue between the two main characters throughout the story, to make them seem like people in real-life, showing their emotions through that dialogue. In fact, most of the story itself is pretty much dialogue.**

4. Does the author expect the reader to make an emotional connection to the story? Explain your answer.

**I believe that the author wants to make the readers think that Fortunato is a foolish kind of person. Right at the beginning of the story, he made him seem foolish by describing what he was wearing ("He had on a tight-fitting parti-striped dress and his head was surmounted by the conical cap and bells.") He also seems to not pick up on what Montresor is doing throughout the story, only until it is too late.**

5. Think back to the events that take place in "The Cask of Amontillado," and think about the attitudes and actions of the characters. Now, write a theme statement for "The Cask of Amontillado."

**I believe an important theme in this story is that in the end, revenge is not worth it. Throughout the story, Montresor is plotting revenge against Fortunato. When he killed him at the end of the story, he seems to develop guilt against what he just did. The story states, "My heart grew sick -- on account of the dampness of the catacombs. I hastened to make an end of my labor. I forced the last stone into its position; I plastered it up. Against the new masonry I reerected the old rampart of bones. For the half of a century no mortal has disturbed them."**