

Questions on “The Cask of Amontillado” by Edgar Allan Poe:

1. What can the reader infer about Montresor’s social position and character from hints in the text? What evidence does the text provide that Montresor is an unreliable narrator?
2. Who is the auditor, the “You,” addressed in the first paragraph of “The Cask of Amontillado”? When is the story being told? Why is it being told? How does your knowledge of the auditor and the occasion influence the effect the story has on you?
3. What devices does Poe use to create and heighten the suspense in the story? Is the outcome ever in doubt?
4. Who (if anyone) is the narrator talking to at the end of the story?
5. Why has the narrator waited fifty years to tell what he has done? Under what circumstances is he reporting his deed?
6. How would you assess the mental stability of the narrator?
7. Why does the narrator call for Fortunato after he has walled him in? Why does he report that his “heart grew sick”?