

The Cask of Amontillado

Edgar Allan Poe

What does Montresor's definition of 'successful' revenge reveal before the plot even begins?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Montresor defines successful revenge
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	Short story - opening two paragraphs
START	The thousand injuries of Fortunato I had borne as I best could
END	I suffered him to hurry me to my palazzo.
PASSAGE ID	sec-cask-01

THE MOVE

Test a narrator's rule against moral language

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Before the revenge plot begins, Montresor defines success in a way that requires both punishment and total immunity for the avenger. His rule reveals that he is judging revenge as a technical achievement, not as a moral act.

MARK

Underline each condition Montresor says revenge must satisfy. Label one condition PUNISHMENT and the other SELF-PROTECTION. Then circle any word that treats revenge like a problem to be solved efficiently.

NOTICE

- What would count as failure according to Montresor’s own rule?
- What moral question is missing from his definition of successful revenge?
- How does this opening rule prepare you to judge everything Montresor does afterward?

THINK

Answer provisionally: What does Montresor's definition of 'successful' revenge reveal before the plot even begins? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: What does Montresor's definition of 'successful' revenge reveal before the plot even begins? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	Montresor defines successful revenge as punishment delivered with no cost to the avenger and with the victim knowing who has punished him. The definition reveals a technical, self-protective view of revenge that omits any moral question about whether revenge is justified.
EVIDENCE	Use both conditions of successful revenge—impunity and recognition—and note what kind of ethical consideration is absent from the rule.
WATCH FOR	Do not answer simply that Montresor is evil. The lesson asks what his rule reveals about how he evaluates actions.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

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START ANCHOR	The thousand injuries of Fortunato I had borne as I best could
END ANCHOR	I suffered him to hurry me to my palazzo.

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OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. **MARK** - Underline each condition Montresor says revenge must satisfy. Label one condition **PUNISHMENT** and the other **SELF-PROTECTION**. Then circle any word that treats revenge like a problem to be solved efficiently.
2. **NOTICE** - What would count as failure according to Montresor's own rule? What moral question is missing from his definition of successful revenge? How does this opening rule prepare you to judge everything Montresor does afterward?
3. **THINK** - Answer provisionally: What does Montresor's definition of 'successful' revenge reveal before the plot even begins?
4. **WRITE** - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.