

The Cask of Amontillado

Edgar Allan Poe

How much of Montresor's plan does he reveal to Fortunato before Fortunato understands it?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Family arms, motto, and trowel
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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 Catacombs

START I forget your arms. END It is this, I answered, producing a trowel from beneath the folds of my roquelaire.

PASSAGE ID	sec-cask-03
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THE MOVE

Read foreshadowing that a character fails to read

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Montresor practically announces his intentions through his family motto, coat of arms, and the trowel, but Fortunato interprets each sign within a harmless social frame. The suspense comes from the reader seeing a pattern the victim repeatedly fails to read.

MARK

Circle each warning sign Montresor reveals—the arms, motto, and trowel. Next to each, write what Fortunato thinks it means and what the reader can suspect it means instead.

NOTICE

- Which clue is most explicit about Montresor's idea of retaliation?
- Why does Fortunato fail to connect the separate clues into a warning?

- How does the reader's growing understanding change the tone of Fortunato's jokes?

THINK

Answer provisionally: How much of Montresor's plan does he reveal to Fortunato before Fortunato understands it? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: How much of Montresor's plan does he reveal to Fortunato before Fortunato understands it? 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 reveals a great deal—the family arms, motto, trowel, and language of retaliation—but Fortunato interprets each clue inside a harmless frame. The reader can assemble the plan because the victim fails to connect the warnings.
EVIDENCE	Use at least two warning signs and explain both Fortunato's innocent reading and the darker reading available to the reader.
WATCH FOR	Do not call any one clue proof by itself. Foreshadowing works here through accumulation and unequal interpretation.
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

I forget your arms.

END ANCHOR	It is this, I answered, producing a trowel from beneath the folds of my roquelaire.
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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 - Circle each warning sign Montresor reveals—the arms, motto, and trowel. Next to each, write what Fortunato thinks it means and what the reader can suspect it means instead.
2. NOTICE - Which clue is most explicit about Montresor's idea of retaliation? Why does Fortunato fail to connect the separate clues into a warning? How does the reader's growing understanding change the tone of Fortunato's jokes?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: How much of Montresor's plan does he reveal to Fortunato before Fortunato understands it?
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.