

The Cask of Amontillado

Edgar Allan Poe

When Montresor says his heart grows sick because of the damp, what does the surrounding evidence allow us to question?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Montresor explains away his hesitation
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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	Final wall
START	A succession of loud and shrill screams
END	For the half of a century no mortal has disturbed them. In pace requiescat!
PASSAGE ID	sec-cask-04

THE MOVE

Compare a narrator's explanation with the evidence around it

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Near the end, Montresor reports a moment of sickness and immediately blames the damp air. Because the surrounding scene contains the suffering of the man he is killing, the explanation invites the reader to test whether Montresor is reporting cause honestly or protecting his self-image.

MARK

Box Montresor's explanation for why his heart grows sick. Then underline the details immediately before and after it that suggest another possible cause. In the margin, write what emotion Montresor refuses to name.

NOTICE

- What evidence supports Montresor's explanation about the damp?
- What evidence makes guilt, pity, fear, or horror plausible alternatives?
- Why might an unreliable self-explanation matter more here than an outright lie?

THINK

Answer provisionally: When Montresor says his heart grows sick because of the damp, what does the surrounding evidence allow us to question? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: When Montresor says his heart grows sick because of the damp, what does the surrounding evidence allow us to question? 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 blames the damp for his sickened heart, but the surrounding scene makes guilt, pity, fear, or horror plausible alternatives. The narrator's explanation is possible but suspiciously convenient because it protects his self-image at the moment of murder.
EVIDENCE	Use Montresor's stated damp explanation and contrast it with what is happening around him—Fortunato's suffering, the final silence, or Montresor's own hesitation.
WATCH FOR	Do not insist the text proves Montresor feels guilt. The strongest answer explains why the evidence permits doubt without pretending the alternative motive is certain.
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	A succession of loud and shrill screams
END ANCHOR	For the half of a century no mortal has disturbed them. In pace requiescat!

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.

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** - Box Montresor's explanation for why his heart grows sick. Then underline the details immediately before and after it that suggest another possible cause. In the margin, write what emotion Montresor refuses to name.
2. **NOTICE** - What evidence supports Montresor's explanation about the damp? What evidence makes guilt, pity, fear, or horror plausible alternatives? Why might an unreliable self-explanation matter more here than an outright lie?
3. **THINK** - Answer provisionally: When Montresor says his heart grows sick because of the damp, what does the surrounding evidence allow us to question?
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.