“The Cask of Amontillado” Group Discussion & Notes

1. This story is both chilling and humorous. Pick a movie or story that is also chilling or humorous and briefly explain it to me.

2. Where do we see humorous elements in this story? One example might be the “jingling of the bells” in the final paragraph when the mood is at its most tense.

3. Is the narrator reliable? Why or why not?

4. Does the narrator manipulate the truth?

5. Re-read the beginning, and consider Fortunato’s reactions throughout the story. What do you think of him?

6. What does Fortunato do or say to reinforce the narrator’s allegations? Does he do or say anything that might refute the allegations?

7. What elements in the story does the change in setting (from a circus/carnival/ party to a dank mausoleum) reinforce?

8. What themes can you pull from this story?

9. Provide three examples that foreshadowed Fortunato’s fate.

10. How do you interpret the narrator’s emotions in the final paragraph?