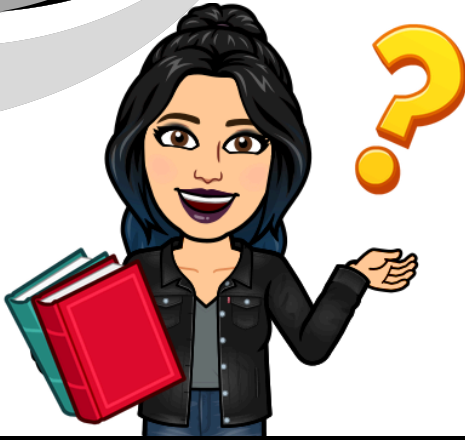


Homework - 10/27

Advanced Eng. B

Ms. Martocello



Recap Today's class began reading "The Masque of the Red Death" by Edgar Allen Poe

STORY CAN BE FOUND HERE: [CLICK HERE](#)

AUDIO STORY CAN BE FOUND HERE: [CLICK HERE](#)

EDGAR ALLEN POE BIOGRAPHY: [CLICK HERE](#)

HOMEWORK WORKSHEET: [CLICK HERE](#)

Overview of "The Red Death"

- The story starts by describing a deadly disease, the "Red Death," which is spreading through the country.

- The "Red Death" is both highly contagious and deadly; symptoms include sharp pain, dizziness, and intense bleeding. It kills victims within half an hour.
- The disease leaves visible red marks on the face of its victims, isolating them from others and making them feared and rejected.

Prince Prospero's Reaction

- Prince Prospero, a wealthy and powerful ruler, decides to isolate himself from the plague with 1,000 of his friends.
- He brings them to a secluded abbey, a large, fortified building surrounded by iron gates, and locks everyone inside to keep the disease out.
- Inside, they have food, entertainment, and everything needed to avoid thinking about the chaos and suffering outside.

The Setting of the Masquerade Ball

- After five or six months of isolation, Prospero holds a grand masked ball for his guests.
- The ball is held in an unusual and luxurious setting: seven rooms, each decorated in a different color.

Details of the Seven Rooms

- Each room has a unique color scheme:
 - Blue, Purple, Green, Orange, White, and Violet: The first six rooms are decorated in colors matching the windows in each room.
 - The Black Room: The seventh room stands out with black velvet walls and carpets, but its windows are a deep, blood-red color.
- There are no lamps in the rooms, only firelight coming from braziers in the hallways. The light shines through the colored glass, casting intense and eerie colors in each room.
- The black room's effect is especially disturbing because the red light gives the room a "ghastly" look, making guests feel uneasy and afraid to enter.

The Clock in the Black Room

- Against the wall in the black room stands a large, ominous ebony clock.
- Every hour, the clock chimes loudly, its deep, clear sound echoing through the rooms.
- The chime is so intense that it interrupts the music, making the guests stop dancing and feel a strange discomfort. Many guests grow pale or thoughtful with each chime, only to resume their celebration once the sound fades.
- This clock adds tension and a sense of time passing ominously.

Analysis of Major Themes and Symbolism

- Isolation from Death: Prince Prospero tries to escape death by locking himself and his friends away. This highlights his arrogance and belief that wealth and power can protect him from suffering.
- Rooms and Colors: Each colored room symbolizes a stage of life:
 - Blue often represents birth, green youth, and white old age.
 - Black and Red represent death, with the black room being the last in the suite, symbolizing the inevitable end of life.
- The Clock: The clock represents the passing of time and reminds the guests that death is coming. Each chime interrupts their happiness, forcing them to confront their fears, even if only briefly.
- The Masquerade: The guests wear costumes that are "grotesque" and "bizarre," reflecting their attempt to hide from reality and escape the horror of the plague.
- Mood and Foreshadowing: The eerie setting, unusual colors, and unsettling clock hint at something dark and ominous. Despite the festive scene, Poe builds tension, suggesting that even these rich, isolated guests can't avoid what's coming.

This section of the story explores themes of mortality, the futility of wealth and power, and the idea that death is an inescapable part of life, regardless of one's status.

Homework:

Complete questions 1-6 in the packet [linked here](#).

You may complete the packet via google docs and share with Ms. Martocello or print it out, fill out and bring it to class.

Please **Make a copy** of the packet before you try to type in it!

FAQ

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