

Adv. English 2

Class Recap

What We Learned

Today, we finished our initial reading of "The Masque of the Red Death" and uncovered the secrets of its setting. We learned that Edgar Allan Poe didn't just choose colors at random; he used the seven chambers as a powerful symbol to tell the story's theme.

The rooms, laid out from East to West and fading from Blue (life/birth) to Black and Scarlet (death), represented the inevitable journey of life. The entire abbey, sealed off from the plague, was actually a symbolic trap where the revelers were forced to face their destiny.

We also defined Gothic Literature—stories that use isolated settings, intense atmosphere, and dark themes to create a mood of dread. Poe is the master of this because he uses every part of the setting, down to the sound of the ebony clock, to heighten the feeling of suspense.

Key Takeaways

Concept	Poe's Example	Writer's Tool
Gothic Mood	The feeling of dread, isolation, and decay.	Use sensory details (silence, shadows, strange smells) to create a sense of unease.
Symbolism	The seven rooms represent the stages of life and the ebony clock symbolizes the passing of time/doom.	Use objects in your setting to represent bigger ideas (e.g., a crumbling wall could symbolize failure or a lost dream).
Setting as Plot	The masked figure only confronts Prospero in the final, black room, confirming the symbolism.	Use your setting to force the action or reveal a truth about your characters.

Homework:

Your mission for homework is to become a detective of Poe's writing style.

1. **Answer the first page of questions in your packet.**



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