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Conflict of the story the cask of amontillado

the cask of amontillado.pdf File Size: 149 kbFile Type: pdfDownload File the_cask_of_amontillado_study_questions_and_analysis.pdf File Size: 16 kbFile Type: pdfDownload File POINT OF VIEWThe story is told from first person point of view. Any quotation from the story in which the narrator is referring to himself as "I" would support this. SETTINGThe setting is important because the carnival season results in characters acting a certain way. First of all, the attendants that work in Montresor's home leave to attend the festivities of the season. Were it not carnival season, they likely would have been at home to see Fortunato. Secondly, Fortunato has been celebrating at the carnival and has therefore had much to drink. This results in him being less aware of what is going on as he is led to his eventual death in the catacombs. CHARACTERSThe protagonist is Montresor. The protagonist is the character who is always in the spotlight. Since Montresor is the one who we follow from the beginning of the story to the end of the story, including his thoughts and motivations, he is our protagonist. The antagonist is the character who is in conflict with the protagonist. Because Montresor wants to get revenge on Fortunato, the conflict is against him and thus he is the antagonist. PLOTThe climax of the story is the most exciting point or the time when a character deals with the conflict for the last time. Throughout the rising action, Montresor is plotting to get his revenge on Fortunato. When Montresor chains Fortunato to the wall, he has accomplished this revenge. While he is technically still getting revenge on him when he walls him in, Fortunato is no longer a threat to Montresor after he is chained and therefore Montresor has dealt with that conflict for the last time. The climax, then, is when Fortunato is chained to the wall. CONFLICTThe main conflict is between Montresor and Fortunato - or character vs. character. Character vs. character conflict is external. Fortunato insulted Montresor at some point before the story began and Montresor is not planning to get his revenge. THEMEThe theme of the story is the overarching message or what the author wants us to learn. Possible themes are any realistic idea that one might take away from the story and apply to other situations in life. The assignment asked you to think about revenge, but other themes could involve the author's message about betrayal. THE TROWELThe trowel is important for a couple of reasons. The reader first sees the trowel appear when Montresor is trying to prove to Fortunato that he is a mason. By showing the trowel, he is gaining the trust of Fortunato by recognizing that they are a part of the same brotherhood. The reader sees the trowel later in the story when Montresor uses it to wall in Fortunato. What Montresor had previously used a tool to build trust, he then uses to get his revenge on Fortunato who allegedly insulted Montresor and thereby broke his trust. HUMOR/IRONYAt one point Fortunato says he will not die of a cough after Montresor asks if they should turn back. Montresor's reply is "true, true." The reader can identify this as humor or an "inside joke" between the reader and the author because we know Montresor is plotting to kill Fortunato and he most certainly will not die of a cough. Later, as the two characters drink wine, Montresor toasts Fortunato and drinks to his long life. Again, the reader can identify this as a joke because Montresor does not intend for Fortunato's life to be very long. In order to continue enjoying our site, we ask that you confirm your identity as a human. Thank you very much for your cooperation. Cards Return to Set Details Term Who are the protagonist and antagonist of the story? Definition Protagonist- Montresor Antagonist- Fortunato Term What is the external conflict? Definition Montresor Vs. Fortunato. Person Vs. Person Fortunato insulted Montresor Term What point-of-view is the story told in? Definition Term The setting is important to the plot of the story because.. Definition Term How is verbal irony used in the story? Definition A cough will not kill you, it will be me. Montresor. Term How is situational irony used in the story? Definition Term What are the themes of this story? Definition Watch out who you trust. Fortunato trusted Montresor and Montresor killed him. Term What are the internal and external conflicts of the story? Definition Person vs. Self Montresor vs. Person Montresor Vs. Fortunato Term Why is the term flashback important to the story? Definition We see that trowel which is what he used to build the wall. And he hints he's a mason. Supporting users have an ad free experience! Plot Analysis Fortunato and Montresor have a history, and a painful one at that. Fortunato has wounded Montresor a "thousand" times. Montresor never complains. But one day, Fortunato goes too far: he insults Montresor, and Montresor vows revenge.ConflictHow to make things right - foreverFor Montresor to revenge himself for Fortunato's insult, he has to get away with it - if Fortunato can revenge him back, then Montresor has lost. The punishment must be permanent - Fortunato has to feel it, and he has to know it's coming from Montresor.ComplicationIt's almost too easy...There really isn't much complication. After a few carefully dropped hints from Montresor (think "Amontillado" and "Luchesi"), Fortunato insists on following Montresor down into the underground graveyard of your worst nightmares. Montresor baits him and plays with him, but Fortunato never considers turning back until it's way too late. ClimaxTrapped in a conveniently man-sized space! Montresor brings up Luchesi, Fortunato calls Luchesi an "ignoramus," and boom! He's chained inside an upright casket in the foulest depths of the catacomb! That's the story's big, explosive moment.SuspenseBrick by brick by brick...Montresor is building a wall of suspense, especially if you are Fortunato. Fortunato's watching himself being bricked in, waiting, breathlessly to see if this is some kind of really creepy carnival joke. DenouementThe final brickAfter Montresor puts in the final brick, the suspense is dissolved. He's heard the pitiful jingle of Fortunato's bells, and it means nothing to him. As soon as the air is used up in the tiny brick casket, Fortunato will be dead. ConclusionLooking backIt's impossible to know how old Montresor is when he kills Fortunato, but in the second to the last line of the story, we learn that the murder happened fifty years ago. So Montresor is probably pushing eighty when he's telling the story. And he could be far more ancient. More importantly, this conclusion lets us know that Montresor has gotten away with his crime so far. His vengeance has been a success, and he wants us to know it. Join today and never see them again. By entering your email address you agree to receive emails from Shmoop and verify that you are over the age of 13. 1. "The Cask of Amontillado" -An Analysis 2. "The Cask of Amontillado" "...but when he ventured upon insult, I vowed revenge." "The Cask of Amontillado" is the narrator's account of his ability to carry out a chilling plot of revenge against his offender. 3. Fine Wine (vintages) Cask of Wine 4. "The Cask of Amontillado" Time, place, and setting contribute to the macabre setting of the story and add suspense as Montresor seeks revenge on Fortunato. 5. Carnival The story begins at dusk during the carnival season and continues to midnight. Setting : 6. The story is set in an unidentified city in Italy. Most of the action takes place in the catacombs, under the Montresor's palazzo, which lends to the story's frightening and morbid atmosphere. Palazzos (mansions) An ancient vault or catac 7. Palazzo - a large, imposing building (as a museum or place of residence) esp. in Italy 8. Catacombs: Cities of the Dead 9. Paris Catacombs There are the bones of 5 to 6 million people. Starting from the late 18th century, lacking in space to put corpses, bodies of people who could not afford proper burials were moved from the overflowing cemeteries and dumped there. 10. Paris Catacombs The bones are piled around in heaps that line the walls. Some of the bones are in gigantic stacks. Some bones are fashioned into macabre configurations: A cross made from femurs 11. Plot Initial Situation An insult, and a vow of revenge Fortunato and Montresor have a history, and a painful one at that. Fortunato has wounded Montresor a "thousand" times. Montresor never complains. But one day, Fortunato goes too far: he insults Montresor, and Montresor vows revenge. How to make things right - forever For Montresor to revenge himself for Fortunato's insult, he has to get away with it - if Fortunato can revenge him back, then Montresor has lost. The punishment must be permanent - Fortunato has to feel it, and he has to know it's coming from Montresor. Complication It's almost too easy... There really isn't much complication. After a few carefully dropped hints from Montresor (think "Amontillado" and "Luchesi"), Fortunato insists on following Montresor down into the underground graveyard of your worst nightmares. Montresor baits him and plays with him, but Fortunato never considers turning back until it's way too late. 12. Conflict: The conflict in this story consists of person vs person and person vs. self. External Conflict (person vs person): The entire story is the conflict between Montresor and Fortunato, although Fortunato is unaware of it. Psychological Conflict (person vs self): Notice the brief moment of remorse and hesitation when Montresor says, "for a brief moment I hesitated -- I trembled. Unsheathing my rapier, I began to grope with it about the recess: but the thought of an instant reassured me." 13. Climax Trapped in a conveniently man-sized space! Montresor brings up Luchesi, Fortunato calls Luchesi an "ignoramus," and boom! He's chained inside an upright casket in the foulest depths of the catacomb! That's the story's big, explosive moment. Suspense Brick by brick by brick... Montresor is building a wall of suspense, especially if you are Fortunato. Fortunato's watching himself being bricked in, waiting, breathlessly to see if this is some kind of really creepy carnival joke. 14. Denouement The final brick After Montresor puts in the final brick, the suspense is dissolved. He's heard the pitiful jingle of Fortunato's bells, and it means nothing to him. As soon as the air is used up in the tiny brick casket, Fortunato will be dead. •Suspense: All the time the reader is anxious to know whether Montresor will succeed in taking Fortunato to the catacombs. At the end of the story, suspense develops as Montresor is building the wall to entrap Fortunato. 15. Conclusion - Looking back. Last two lines of the story: "For the half of a century no mortal has disturbed them. In pace requiescat." It's impossible to know how old Montresor is when he kills Fortunato, but in the second to the last line of the story, we learn that the murder happened fifty years ago. So Montresor is probably pushing eighty when he's telling the story. And he could be far more ancient. More importantly, this conclusion lets us know that Montresor has gotten away with his crime so far. His vengeance has been a success, and he wants us to know it. 16. The story is told from the perspective of a first-person unreliable narrator. The narrator may be biased and even mentally disturbed. He does not explain the nature of the supposed injuries Fortunato had caused him or tell us about the insult that made him decide to take revenge. 17. Opening Lines of The Story: The thousand injuries of Fortunato I had borne as I best could; but when he ventured upon insult, I vowed revenge. 18. Montresor He is the narrator of the story fifty years after it happened. As a narrator, he is very probably unreliable. He fails to identify the "thousand injuries" or the nature of the insult that he says Fortunato caused him. His motives are uncertain, and we cannot take his version of the story for granted. Montresor is a ruthless and cruel character, who is determined to carry out his revenge to the end, in spite of the victim's screams and begging for mercy. 19. Montresor is a resourceful and cunning character, whose plan for murder is so clever that the crime is not discovered even after fifty years. He prepares for all the details and succeeds in deceiving Fortunato and dragging him into the catacombs. The most shocking aspect of his story is that he does not show any sign of remorse after doing the crime. He brags about his ability to deceive Fortunato and about his skill at planning the crime. Montresor's pride and vanity are perhaps behind his crime. He is so proud that he cannot tolerate the supposed insult he refers to at the beginning of the story. 20. Fortunato Fortunato's pride at his connoisseurship in wine was his point of weakness. He means that Fortunato believed that nobody was more skilled than him in judging good wines. Montresor takes advantage of this pride in bringing Fortunato to his fate. Fortunato's addiction to wine is another fault that leads to his downfall. His intoxication makes it easy for Montresor to carry out his plan. Fortunato may also be greedy, and his desire to get hold of the Amontillado is perhaps what makes him eager to prevent Luchesi from knowing about it. 21. Revenge: The story revolves around getting revenge for an insult. Deception: The story is also about the power of deception. Montresor tries successfully to draw Fortunato into the catacombs to carry out his revenge. He succeeds in concealing his real intentions behind the mask of friendship and courtesy. 22. Verbal irony: Verbal irony is the gap between what is said and what is meant. In many cases, Montresor says the opposite of what he means. He pretends to be cautious about the life and health of Fortunato and tells him that since the catacombs are covered with niter, which is hazardous to health, especially as Fortunato suffers from a sever cold and coughing, it is better that they go back. Montresor drinks to Fortunato's "long life," although he knows that Fortunato will not live very long because he intends to kill him soon. 23. Situation irony: Situational irony is the gap between what is expected to happen and what really happens The title of the story is ironic, because the word "cask" also mean "casket," or coffin. Fortunato's name is ironic. It means fortunate while he is actually unfortunate. The cheerful setting of the murder story during the merriment of the carnival season are also ironic. The black mask and cloak, worn by Montresor are symbolic of death. 24. Dramatic irony: Dramatic irony is the gap between what the characters know and what the readers know. Fortunato is unaware of his imminent death, while the reader knows that. Montresor's smiles in the face of Fortunato and his warm meeting are ironic because the reader knows they are genuine. When Fortunato says "I will not die of a cough." Montresor says, "True-true..." The reader knows that he is going to die anyway. 25. The Montresor family coat of arms is symbolic of Montresor's revenge. Coat of arms of the Montresors 26. The jovial motley of Fortunato is symbolic of his being a fool, humiliated and fooled by Montresor. 27. The can be seen as a symbol of the dark catacombs dark side of Montresor's personality and his evil thoughts. The underground catacombs beneath the city streets, where the festivities are going on, represent the dark, unseen part of Montresor's self below the apparent surface of his gentle and good-mannered self. 28. The carnival is a time of disguise, when people dress up in all sorts of costumes. The masquerade of the carnival season is symbolic of deception and pretence. You cannot know who people really are and what they are really like. Masquerading 29. Carnival Masks are signs of false friendship and false identity. Montresor hides his true identity and real intentions behind the mask of friendship and politeness. 30. 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