

ANSWER KEY

THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF USHER

Before Reading

Page 9

- 4 a) 4 b) 1 c) 2 d) 5 e) 3
7 (Possible Answer) c

Page 10

- 8 a) 2 b) 5 c) 8 d) 6 e) 1 f) 3 g) 7 h) 4

Page 11

- 10 1. d 2. f 3. g 4. a 5. b 6. c 7. h 8. e
11 a) lute b) shield c) tapestries d) tree trunk e) coffin
f) web g) armor h) vault

Page 14

- The narrator and Roderick Usher were childhood companions.
- Usher writes to the narrator to invite him to stay with him because he is unwell.
- Usher asks the narrator to cheer him up.

Page 16

The Usher family has always been small.
s

Page 19

- (Possible Answers)
- The decaying appearance of the house and the atmosphere surrounding it.
 - The dark and rundown interior.
 - The sense of gloom.

Page 23

- (Possible Answers)
- He is as pale as a corpse and he has a shiny look in his eyes. His hair is wild and everything about him seems exaggerated. He speaks incoherently.
 - He describes his symptoms as being a heightening of the senses, which seems to be quite paranoid. He also says there is no cure but adds that it will probably go away.

Page 26

The narrator paints and reads with Usher and listens as Usher plays his guitar.

Page 28

He thinks the atmosphere of the house has had a bad influence on his family.

Page 33

- He decides to entomb her temporarily in one of the vaults of the house.
- Normally people are buried immediately by professional undertakers.
- She discovered that her illness had trance-like symptoms.
- Usher and Lady Madeline are twins.

After Reading

Page 48

- 7 a) F b) F c) F d) F e) F f) D g) F h) T i) T j) T k) D l) T
8 mansion/house, malady/sickness, entombment/burial, physician/doctor, draperies/curtains, masonry/stones

Page 49

- 9 Summary c) is the most accurate.

Page 50

People who knew Roderick Usher said that he had changed a lot in recent years. They say that his skin was as pale as that of a corpse. His eyes had become large and luminous/shiny. In fact people found the paleness of his skin and the shiny look of his eyes quite startling. His lips were said to be thin and very pale. He had a delicate nose, but his nostrils were broad. His chin was finely-shaped and he had a wide forehead. His hair could be described as silky and soft like a web, but it was also very long and wild. Judging by his appearance he did not seem at all normal

Page 52

- 17 a) 1 b) 7 c) 6 d) 3 e) 2 f) 4 g) 11 h) 9 i) 10 j) 8 k) 5

Page 53

- 19 a) 4 b) 3 c) 1 d) 2 e) 5

Page 54

- 1 1. b) 2. b) 3. b) 4. a)
2 a) 1 b) 3 c) 3 d) 2

Page 55

- 3
The picture on page 21 depicts the narrator's first meeting with Usher. It's important because it is the first impression that the narrator has of Usher. He notices his friend's strange appearance and nervous reactions. In the illustration we also get a glimpse (in the bottom left) of Lady Madeline.
The picture on page 45 shows Lady Madeline's resuscitation during the storm. It is a very dramatic image and we can clearly see the terror of both the narrator and Usher.

Page 56

- 5 a) 1 b) 4 c) 3 d) 2 e) 1 f) 3 g) 3 h) 2

THE OVAL PORTRAIT

Before Reading

Page 59

- 3 a) F b) T c) T d) T e) F f) T

Page 60

- 5 a) 2 b) 4 c) 6 d) 5 e) 1 f) 3
6 a) abandoned b) dreaded c) deceived d) surrounded
e) gazed f) entranced

Page 61

- 8 1. c 2. a 3. d 4. b

Page 67

She did not want to have her portrait painted because she hated painting because it took her husband away from her.

After Reading

Page 70

- 6 a) F b) T c) F d) F e) D f) D
7
a) It refers to the room where the narrator and his servant spent the night.
b) It refers to the painter closing his eyes after he saw the portrait for the first time.

- c) It refers to the lifelike expression of the woman in the portrait.
d) This refers to the painting; itself refers to life.

Page 71

9

- a) The man, who broke into the house, was the narrator's servant.
b) The painter's old house was abandoned.
c) The narrator read the book that he had found on his pillow.
d) The painter, who was a moody man, was lost in his dreams.
e) The people, who saw the portrait, said it looked like the painter's wife.
f) The young woman, who was once full of energy, became weak and depressed.

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10 (Possible Answers)

Narrator	Painter	Painter's Wife	Painting
confused	moody	full of energy	alive
delirious	obsessed	fun-loving	admirable
wide awake	wild	humble	lifelike
curious	studious	obedient	startling

Page 73

12 (Possible Answer)

His attitude towards his painting shows his obsession. He worked continuously without noticing that the subject of his painting (his wife) was unwell and dying.

13

- a) The painter
b) The people who saw the painting. The narrator
c) The painter's wife
d) The narrator
e) The painter
f) The people who saw the painting

14 (Possible Answers)

- b) The people exclaimed that the painting was very lifelike.
c) The painter's wife insisted that she was fine.
d) The narrator asked Pedro to close the shutters of the room.
e) The painter persuaded his wife to be the subject of his painting.
f) The people declared that the painter was deeply in love with his wife.

Page 74

18 a) 1 b) 5 c) 8 d) 11 e) 9 f) 4 g) 6 h) 10 i) 2 j) 3 k) 7

Page 76

1

- a) 1 abandoned 2 mountains
b) 3 servant c) 4 paintings
d) 5 lifelike e) pillow

Page 77

4 a) F b) F c) T d) T e) F f) F

Page 78

6 a) 2 b) 4 c) 3 d) 2

THE MASQUE OF THE RED DEATH

Before Reading

Page 82

5

- a) He is speaking to his friends.
b) A terrible disease is killing everyone.
c) He wants to go to a fortified abbey in the countryside.

- d) He takes food and wine with him.

Page 87

- It is called the Red Death because victims bleed from their pores and their bodies are covered with red marks.
- The best way to control or cure diseases like this is to isolate the victims as soon as possible so they don't have contact with other people.
- Medical research, vaccinations and medical drugs are used to help and cure victims of diseases such as AIDS, tuberculosis, yellow fever, malaria and the flu are some infectious disease that exist today.

Page 86

Prince Prospero's name suggests happiness and prosperity (wealth and good fortune).

Page 88

- There are seven rooms in the suite where the masquerade was held. Historically the number 7 is important. According to the bible the world was built in seven days, and there are seven wonders in the world, seven cardinal sins and seven cardinal virtues. In the story seven most likely represents the seven ages of man, and the passage through the rooms the journey from birth to death.
- Colors are also highly significant.
- Red is associated with blood and pain. Black with death.

Page 91

- Time is important in the story. There is a sense of time running out as the disease gets closer and closer.
- It is represented by the beating of the ebony clock, but also by the suite of seven rooms which represent the seven ages of man and therefore man's journey from birth to death. Poe is telling us that we cannot stop time.

Page 98

- The stranger is the Red Death. He walks through the rooms without talking to anyone.
- The guests are horrified because his costume represents a terrible disease.
- Prince Prospero is angry because he says the stranger is making fun of him.

After Reading

Page 102

1 a) A is from *The Fall of the House of Usher*, B is from *The Oval Portrait*, C is from *The Masque of the Red Death*.

2 (Possible Answers)

They are all male. Usher and the Painter are both obsessed by their manias. This obsession eventually destroys them. Prospero and the Painter are both single-minded and determined. They feel as if they are invincible and ignore signs that show otherwise.

3 The narrator gives an outsider's voice and reflects the author's point of view. The narrator is not neutral and judges the behavior of the main characters.
The narrator is reliable.

Page 104

10

- a) It was a fatal disease and the symptoms were bleeding and red marks.
b) They welded the bolts to make the abbey secure.
c) It was at its worst when Prince Prospero decided to go with his friends to the fortified abbey.
d) He took a thousand friends with him.
e) The fourth room was orange.

- f) The guests were dressed in strange and eccentric costumes.
- g) They were afraid of the last room because the contrast of the black walls and red light was horrible and gave anyone who entered a wild expression.
- h) When the clock chimed everyone stopped what they were doing.
- i) He appeared at midnight.
- j) The prince was going to stab the stranger with his dagger.
- k) He died of the Red Death.
- l) They all died.

13 green, blue, purple, black, orange, white, violet

Page 105

- 14** a) 1 b) 3 c) 8 d) 4 e) 6 f) 7 g) 5 h) 2
15 a) masquerade b) suite c) dagger d) chime
 e) pane f) musicians

Page 106

19 The 'actor' is the Red Death. He is wearing a funeral shroud and looks like a victim of the disease. The partygoers are disgusted because the costume is in very bad taste.

20 His reaction shows his lack of concern for the poor of the country. It also shows arrogance in thinking that thanks to his wealth he can protect himself and his friends.

Page 107

22 We have now been here in the abbey for about five or six months. We have plenty of supplies and tomorrow I will entertain my friends at a masked ball. I will, of course, hold this in the suite of seven rooms that I have personally designed. The rooms are built in an irregular way and each one is decorated in a different color. My favorite room is the black room, which is on the western side. Its color is black and its walls are covered in velvet tapestries of the same color. The windows here are a deep blood/red/scarlet color. The effect this creates is ghastly in the extreme. I'm sure no one will be courageous/brave enough to set foot inside this room. I think I'm going to have a lot of fun.

Page 108

25 (Possible Answers)

- a) The seven rooms represent the seven ages of man, and the passage through the rooms represents the journey from birth to death. Seven wonders of the world; seven deadly sins; seven cardinal virtues; according to the bible the world was created in seven days; there are seven heavens and earths in Islamic tradition, etc.
- b) The clock represents the inevitability of the passing of time.
- c) Prince Prospero's name suggests happiness and prosperity (wealth and good fortune).
- d) They are all associated with disguise, not being true to oneself.

26 a) 3 b) 1 c) 5 d) 4 e) 2

Page 110

- 1** a) already b) who c) himself d) was held e) across
 f) hadn't seen g) as h) at

Page 112

4 a) 2 b) 4 c) 2 d) 4 e) 2