

NAME:

DATE:

CLASS:

***The Masque of the Red Death* LITERARY ANALYSIS: SYMBOLISM & ALLEGORY**

PART I. Symbolism

Symbolism is a writer's use of symbols. A **symbol** is a character, place, thing, or event in a literary work that stands for a larger idea. A story in which all characters and settings are clearly symbolic is called an **allegory**.

DIRECTIONS: Complete the following chart. Explain what you think each symbol in "The Masque of the Red Death" represents and how it helps teach the lesson of the story.

SYMBOL	What it REPRESENTS	How it helps TEACH the Lesson
ex. Dreams	masqueraders, fantasies	shows how life is short-lived; foreshadows the grim ending of the story
Masked Visitor		
Black Chamber		
The Music		
The Clock		

PART II. DIRECTIONS: Identify three details from the story that have to do with one of the symbols above and describe it below. (2-3 lines)

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There Masque of the Red Death

OPEN-BOOK QUIZ

DIRECTIONS: *Identify the letter of the choice that best answers the question.*

1. Why do Prince Prospero and his guests lock themselves in an abbey?

- A. to pray in seclusion
- B. to celebrate his birthday
- C. to escape an invading army
- D. to escape the Red Death

2. The revelers' masks and costumes symbolize their attempt to hide from the Red Death. What detail from the story supports this interpretation?

- A. The music stops each time the ebony clock chimes.
- B. The uninvited guest has blood on his mask and costume.
- C. The revelers look like dreams moving from room to room.
- D. There are seven chambers, each decorated in a different color.

3. Of the seven chambers in "The Masque of the Red Death," which room is the least popular, and why?

- A. the white room; it is too plain
- B. the orange room; it is too bright
- C. the violet room; it is too cold
- D. the black room; it is too frightening

4. What do the red windows in the last chamber symbolize in "The Masque of the Red Death"?

- A. blood and death
- B. love and hope
- C. jealousy and fear
- D. elegance and wealth

5. Prince Prospero's guests seem happy and carefree, but they stop celebrating and get very quiet every time the clock chimes. What does this tell you about how they are really feeling?

- A. They are annoyed that the clock keeps interrupting their fun.
- B. They are happy about their flawless escape from the Red Death.
- C. Under their happy exterior, they are still worried about the Red Death.
- D. While they are quiet, they think about how much they dislike Prospero.

6. Which of the following is a symbol that suggests that the revelers will not live long in "The Masque of the Red Death"?

- A. the white room
- B. the locked gates
- C. the prince's dagger
- D. the ebony clock

7. How does Prince Prospero die?

- A. He is stabbed with a dagger.
- B. He is stricken by the plague.
- C. He is injured in a fall.
- D. He is hanged from the battlements.

8. The tripods' flames go out when the last of the revelers dies. Based on this detail, what might the tripods' flames symbolize in "The Masque of the Red Death"?

- A. the revelers' lives
- B. the peasants' revenge
- C. that it was all a dream
- D. Prince Prospero's wealth