

The Fall of the House of Usher and Other Stories

Photocopiable

While reading

The Fall of the House of Usher

1 **Underline the wrong word and put the right one.**

- a The Ushers were a poor family.
- b The rooms in the House of Usher were very light.
- c When Roderick was a boy he was very ugly.
- d Roderick believed that the school was the reason for his illness.
- e They put Madeline's body in a tomb behind the house.
- f Ethelred tries to get into the house of a crazy young man.
- g Ethelred saw a pile of silver next to the strange animal.
- h Madeline was dead when they put her in the tomb.

2 **Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?**

- a Roderick's friend was very sad when he first saw the House of Usher.
- b Roderick went out a lot.
- c Roderick and Madeline were alone in the house when Roderick's friend arrived.
- d Roderick and his friend painted, read and listened to music together.
- e Madeline's face had more color when they put her in the tomb.
- f The story of Ethelred was Roderick's favorite book.
- g Ethelred killed the strange animal in the story.
- h There was blood on Madeline's clothes when she appeared in the door.

The Maelström

3 **Tick (✓) the right answer.**

- a When was it safe to cross the Maelström?
 - 1) For fifteen minutes at the turn of the tide.
 - 2) When it was raining.
 - 3) When the wind was good and they could sail quickly.
- b What happened to the man's younger brother?
 - 1) He went down into the whirlpool with the boat.
 - 2) He jumped into the water and escaped.

- 3) The wind knocked him into the water and he died.
- c Why did the man tie himself to a water barrel and jump into the water?
 - 1) Because he wanted to see the inside of the whirlpool.
 - 2) Because he realized that light things went up to the sea again.
 - 3) Because his brother was holding the metal ring on the boat.

4 **Finish the sentences with the right words.**

- coast attacked shining fear rough owned plan highest
- a The old man told his story at the top of the mountain.
 - b Lofoden is close to the of Norway.
 - c The ocean was changing and becoming
 - d The three fishermen a large fishing boat.
 - e When the fishermen went out to sea, the sun was
 - f When the fisherman was close to death, his left him.
 - g The older brother the younger like a madman.
 - h The younger brother tried to explain his to the older brother.

The Barrel of Amontillado

5 **Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?**

- a Montresor hated Fortunato because he was mad.
- b Fortunato thought that Luchesi didn't know much about wine.
- c Fortunato likes wine very much.
- d There were tombs under Montresor's house.
- e Fortunato didn't drink any wine in the caves.
- f Montresor tied Fortunato to a large rock.
- g Montresor was worried that somebody would hear Fortunato's screams.
- h Montresor felt bad when he finally finished the wall.

6 **Answer the questions.**

- a What was Fortunato's weakness?
.....

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- b What was happening in the city that day?
.....
- c Where did Montresor keep his wine?
.....
- d Why was it wet in the caves?
.....
- e What was at the end of the deep cave in the rock?
.....
- f What did Montresor build in front of the cave?
.....
- g Who screamed the loudest?
.....
- h How long is it since somebody visited the caves?
.....

The Murders in the Rue Morgue

7 Finish the sentences.

- a A strong man likes to use his body but an intelligent man
- b Dupin thought that most people wore windows
- c The people of the neighborhood of St. Roch woke when.....
- d On the floor, there were many expensive things and two
- e When somebody tried to pick up Madame L'Esplanade,
- f One voice was low and rough and the other was
- g Dupin needed a gun to
- h Dupin thought the owner of the orang-utan was a sailor because

8 Put a word or words on the left with a word or words on the right.

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| bought | low |
| gladly | boring |
| loud | thin |
| pick up | sold |
| continued | entrance |
| rough | unhappily |
| high | quiet |
| amusing | smooth |
| exit | put down |
| thick | stopped |

The Stolen Letter

9 Number the sentences 1–8 to make a story.

- a Dupin told the police to search the rooms again.
- b Dupin took the letter and put another in its place.
- c Dupin went to see the Minister in his rooms.
- d A government minister stole a letter from an important lady.
- e The Minister ran to his window and looked out.
- f Dupin saw an old dirty letter in a letter rack.
- g The Chief of Police signed a check for Dupin.
- h The Chief of Police visited Dupin.

10 Put the underlined letters in the right place to make a word.

- a The Chief of Police wanted Dupin's iponion about an important matter.
- b Somebody stole an important letter from the royal mapnstrtae
- c The Minister sudesge the lady's secret.
- d The thief used the letter for his own ugdnaores purposes.
- e The Chief of Police had a pdnecirsoit of the letter.
- f The Chief of Police works hard, but he cannot think with the mind of a ircmialn
- g The dessrad on the outside of the letter was new.
- h The Minister knew Dupin's dhtignwanri

After reading

11 Finish the sentences with the right name.

- A fisherman Madeline Usher Roderick Usher
- a was afraid he was going to die from an illness.
 - b came back from the tomb with blood on her clothes.
 - c lost two of his brothers during a storm.

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1 Tick (✓) the right ending to finish the sentences.

- a Roderick's friend visited him because
- 1) he heard he was sick.
 - 2) he got a letter from him.
 - 3) the doctor asked him to visit.
- b Madeline
- 1) became ill when she was young.
 - 2) made Roderick's friend afraid.
 - 3) loved painting like her brother.
- c Roderick
- 1) didn't want to talk about his sister.
 - 2) thought his sister was strange.
 - 3) painted strange pictures.
- d When the two men put Madeline in the tomb
- 1) her face had more color.
 - 2) there was blood on her face.
 - 3) her face was very pale.
- e Ethelred
- 1) was a very old story.
 - 2) was the story of a brave man.
 - 3) was the only story in the room.
- f The strange noises the two men heard were
- 1) the wind and rain on the windows.
 - 2) not real, just in their minds.
 - 3) Madeline coming out of the tomb.
- g When Madeline entered the room
- 1) she looked better than before.
 - 2) she was terribly thin.
 - 3) she killed her brother.

2 Are these sentences about *The Maelström* right (✓) or wrong (X)?

- a The man with the white hair isn't really very old.
- b The writer of the story saw a big whirlpool.
- c The man with the white hair was from Norway.
- d The man went fishing with three brothers.
- e The fishermen caught a lot of fish the day of the storm.
- f The fishermen knew that a storm was coming.
- g The fisherman didn't see anything inside the whirlpool.
- h The fisherman escaped because he tied himself to something light.
- i His older brother also escaped from the whirlpool.
- j Other people believed the fisherman's story about the whirlpool.

3 What happened first? Number the sentences 1–8.

- a Montresor told Fortunato about the barrel of wine he had.
- b Montresor tied Fortunato to the metal rings in the cave.
- c Montresor and Fortunato went into the caves.
- d Montresor met Fortunato in the street.
- e Montresor finished the wall and left the caves.
- f Fortunato began to scream.
- g Montresor gave Fortunato some wine to drink.
- h Montresor started to build a wall in front of the small cave.

4 Finish the sentences with the right name.

- Dupin Henri Duval Madame L'Espanaye
Isidore Muset Pauline Duborg The writer
Pierre Moreau Camile L'Espanaye Jules Mignaud
Adolphe Le Bon
- a lived in the Rue Morgue with her daughter.
- b solved the mystery of the murders.
- c was the first policeman who went to the house.
- d took the gold from the bank to the house.
- e was taken out of the chimney by five strong men.
- f washed clothes for Madame L'Espanaye and her daughter.
- g worked in a bank.
- h lived next door to Madame L'Espanaye and was one of the first people in the house.
- i sold cigarettes to the ladies.
- j lived with Dupin in a large, old house.

5 Circle the right words.

- a The Chief of Police thought the mystery of the letter was very *simple* / *difficult*.
- b The thief *knew* / *didn't know* that the lady saw him take the letter.
- c The police searched the Minister's room *many* / *a few* times.
- d The Chief of Police was *sad* / *happy* when Dupin gave him the letter.
- e The man in the street had a *knife* / *letter*.
- f Dupin took the letter on his *first* / *second* visit to the Minister.