1. Describe the setting and how it contributes to the overall mood of the story.

2. Why would Red Death be always capitalized? Why do you think Poe chooses to treat the Red Death as a character?

3. What is the Latin root word of “Prospero’s” name? Why name him this as opposed to “Prince James”? What about the prince makes his name ironic?

4. Which line in paragraph 2 is extra information that would imply Foreshadowing?

5. What about the layout of the rooms makes it impossible to see from one room to another?

6. Which strongly connotative words or descriptions are best used by the author to build a sense of horror in describing the final room?

7. Draw a map labeling and describing the 7 rooms.

8. The guests act differently when the clock chimes. Describe how the party changes according to the clock.

9. Which words does Poe use to imbed the notion that Prince Prospero may be possibly crazy or dreaming?

10. What can you infer about the way the guests feel about the mysterious guest dressed as a victim of the Red Death?

11. Why does Prince Prospero change from scared of the mysterious guest to angry?

12. What is the reason behind why the guests made it easy for the mysterious guest to pass from room to room “uninterruptedly”?

13. In the final paragraph, the line reads: “he had come like a thief in the night”. Research this reference and make a claim about why Poe uses these exact words to make a comparison. What is the comparison and what could be his reasoning behind it?

14. This author wrote from third person limited point of view. If he chose to write from first person, argue whether the mysterious figure or Prince Prospero would make a better narrator?

15. Some people argue that this story was a dream. If it were a dream, what would the purpose of the dream be? What is the lesson to be learned? Is this lesson similar or dissimilar to the lessons Erik learned in Phantom?