The Cask of Amontillado” Literary Analysis Questions

***Answer the following questions on your own paper.  Remember to use textual evidence if possible as these will be the guiding questions for our Socratic Seminar.***

1. Hyperbole is the use of exaggeration to make a point. Look at the first paragraph. What phrase used by the narrator is an example of hyperbole? Write down the full sentence that includes the hyperbolic element. Does this line make you more sympathetic or less toward the narrator/murderer? Why?

2. Montresor tells us, “A wrong is unredressed when retribution overtakes its redresser. It is equally unredressed when the avenger fails to make himself felt as such to him who has done the wrong.” In your own words, explain what this means.

3. What is it about Montresor that makes him an especially effective enemy to Fortunato? Give an example from a book you have read or a film/T.V. show you have seen in which this type of villain exists.

4. Fortunato, who has been out drinking and enjoying Carnival, is wearing a clown’s hat. Symbolically, why is this an interesting–and appropriate–costume choice by the writer, Edgar Allan Poe?

5. To whom, do you suppose, is Montresor telling this story? Upon what evidence do you base your assumption?