

"The Cask of Amontillado" by Edgar Allan Poe
Reading: Read Ahead to Make and Verify Predictions

A **prediction** is an informed guess about what will happen later in a narrative. **Making and verifying predictions** keeps you actively involved in the story you are reading.

- Notice details that may foreshadow future events. Make predictions based on those details, and then read on to verify your predictions. If a prediction turns out to be wrong, evaluate your reasoning to determine whether you misread details or whether the author purposely created false expectations in order to surprise you later in the story.
- Use a chart like the one shown to record your predictions and evaluate their accuracy. Analyze any inaccurate predictions to determine why they were incorrect.

The key to making accurate predictions is paying close attention to the story's details as you read. In "The Cask of Amontillado," the author provides many colorful details that serve as hints about what will happen.

Poe's original: I took from their sconces two flambeaux, and giving one to Fortunato, bowed him through several suites of rooms to the archway that led into the vaults. I passed down a long and winding staircase, requesting him to be cautious as he followed. We came at length to the foot of the descent, and stood together upon the damp ground of the catacombs of the Montresors.

Prediction: The narrator is going to do something terrible to Fortunato in the catacombs.

DIRECTIONS: *Fill in the columns on the following chart. In the second column, write your prediction based on the details in the first column. Then, read ahead to find out the outcome. How closely did your predictions match the outcomes? Record the outcomes in the third column.*

Details	My Prediction	Outcome
1. "Thus speaking, Fortunato possessed himself of my arm; and putting on a mask of black silk and drawing a <i>roquelaure</i> closely about my person, I suffered him to hurry me to my palazzo."		
2. "There were no attendants at home; they had absconded to make merry in honor of the time."		
3. It was in vain that Fortunato, uplifting his dull torch, endeavored to pry into the depth of the recess. Its termination the feeble light did not enable us to see. "Proceed," I said: "herein is the Amontillado. . . ."		