

# CELEBRATE SPOOKY SEASON

## ELA Activities

with Gale In Context: Literature

### TEACHER DIRECTIONS

#### **“The Masque of the Red Death” by Edgar Allan Poe – Reading and Vocabulary**

- Read the short story “[The Masque of the Red Death](#)” by Edgar Allan Poe. You might choose to do this as a class, in small groups, or individually.
- While reading, have students define the vocabulary terms. **Remember:** You can highlight a word in Gale and select “**define**”.

#### **“The Masque of the Red Death” by Edgar Allan Poe – Questions and Map**

- After reading the short story “[The Masque of the Red Death](#)” by Edgar Allan Poe, have students view the video “[How Fictional Pandemics Reflect the Real Thing](#)” in *Gale In Context: Literature* and answer the corresponding questions.
- Students will then answer the reading comprehension questions based on the text. **Tip:** Have them cite their answers and text evidence using the [Highlights and Notes](#) feature built into *Gale in Context: Literature*. Once students make their annotations, they can [share via Google Drive or Microsoft OneDrive!](#)
- After answering the comprehension questions, students will design their own map representing the abbey in the story. They will cite text evidence and provide quotes for design elements specifically stated in the text.

***\*Have students open Gale In Context: Literature prior to clicking on the links below.***

Resource	Link
Highlights and Notes Tutorial	<a href="https://support.gale.com/doc/galetools-video2">https://support.gale.com/doc/galetools-video2</a>
Google Drive and OneDrive Tutorial	<a href="https://support.gale.com/doc/galetools-video3">https://support.gale.com/doc/galetools-video3</a>
“The Masque of the Red Death” by Edgar Allan Poe – Full-Text	<a href="https://link.gale.com/apps/portal/BXOZPD633884482/LITIC">https://link.gale.com/apps/portal/BXOZPD633884482/LITIC</a> Visit the Work Guide page above and select “Read Book”
Fictional Pandemic	<a href="https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/MNQNAU412854986/LITIC">https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/MNQNAU412854986/LITIC</a>

# "Masque of the Red Death" by Edgar Allan Poe VOCABULARY

**Directions** – While reading, define each of the terms below. Remember, you can highlight a word in Gale and select “**define**”.

August \_\_\_\_\_

Blasphemous \_\_\_\_\_

Buffoon \_\_\_\_\_

Contagion \_\_\_\_\_

Dauntless \_\_\_\_\_

Disapprobation \_\_\_\_\_

Disconcert \_\_\_\_\_

Dissolution \_\_\_\_\_

Egress \_\_\_\_\_

Gaiety \_\_\_\_\_

Hale \_\_\_\_\_

Hearken \_\_\_\_\_

Ingress \_\_\_\_\_

Pendulum \_\_\_\_\_

Pervade \_\_\_\_\_

Pestilence \_\_\_\_\_

Profusion \_\_\_\_\_

Propriety \_\_\_\_\_

Sagacious \_\_\_\_\_

Visage \_\_\_\_\_

Vista \_\_\_\_\_

# “Masque of the Red Death” by Edgar Allan Poe QUESTIONS

**Directions** – After reading the short story “The Masque of the Red Death” by Edgar Allan Poe answer the questions below concerning the text.

View the video [“How Fictional Pandemics Reflect the Real Thing”](#) in *Gale In Context: Literature* and answer the questions below.

1. How does pandemic literature help us understand and contextualize real-life pandemics? What aspects of human behavior and society does it focus on?

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2. In what ways does pandemic literature reflect our fears and anxieties about disease and societal collapse? How does it offer hope and show the possibility of survival and rebuilding?

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3. How has the portrayal of pandemics in literature evolved over time? Compare earlier examples of pandemic literature to more recent ones. What themes and messages do you notice?

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4. What role does misinformation play in the spread and impact of pandemics, both in real life and in pandemic literature? How does it contribute to fear, panic, and the downfall of societies?

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# “Masque of the Red Death” by Edgar Allan Poe

## QUESTIONS

**Directions** – After reading the short story “The Masque of the Red Death” by Edgar Allan Poe answer the questions below concerning the text.

1. Describe the setting of the story and its significance in creating a sense of dread and impending doom.

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2. Analyze the symbolism of the seven rooms in the story. What is the color of each? What does each room represent?

	Color	Symbolism
<b>Room 1</b>		
<b>Room 2</b>		
<b>Room 3</b>		
<b>Room 4</b>		
<b>Room 5</b>		
<b>Room 6</b>		
<b>Room 7</b>		

# “Masque of the Red Death” by Edgar Allan Poe QUESTIONS

3. Discuss the character of Prince Prospero. What are his motivations and actions throughout the story? How does he reflect the theme of human arrogance?

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4. Explore the theme of death in the story. How does Poe use imagery and symbolism to convey the inevitability and inescapability of death?

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5. Examine the role of the masked figure in the story. What does the figure symbolize, and how does it contribute to the atmosphere of terror?

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6. Discuss the significance of the clock in the story. What does it represent, and how does it affect the characters and the overall mood?

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7. Analyze the narrative structure of the story. How does Poe build suspense and tension through his use of foreshadowing and pacing?

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8. Discuss the theme of isolation in the story. How does the isolation of Prince Prospero and his guests contribute to their eventual downfall?

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# "Masque of the Red Death" by Edgar Allan Poe

## QUESTIONS

9. Explore the theme of morality in "The Masque of the Red Death." How do the actions and choices of the characters reflect their moral values or lack thereof?

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10. Reflect on the overall message or lesson that Poe conveys through the story. What insights or criticisms does he offer about human nature and the inevitability of death?

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11. On a blank sheet of paper, draw a map of the abbey identifying the following story elements:

- The Seven Rooms, labeled and arranged by color
- The corridor
- Braziers
- The ebony clock
- A map key with directions
- Windows
- Doors

**Note:** Some of these abbey descriptions are stated explicitly in the text, while others are inferred. When designing something mentioned specifically in the text, cite the page number and provide a quote from which you got this information.

# “Masque of the Red Death” by Edgar Allan Poe ANSWER KEY

## Questions – Video *(Answers will vary, but some example answers are provided below)*

1. Pandemic literature provides a lens through which we can explore the social, psychological, and behavioral aspects of pandemics. It allows us to examine how individuals and societies respond to such crises, highlighting themes of fear, survival, societal collapse, and rebuilding.
2. Pandemic literature often mirrors our fears by portraying the devastating effects of disease and the potential collapse of society. However, it also offers hope by showcasing the resilience of individuals and communities, emphasizing the possibility of survival and the potential for rebuilding and renewal.
3. Earlier examples of pandemic literature often focused on moralizing and attributing diseases to sinful behavior. In more recent times, pandemic literature has shifted towards exploring sociological, psychological, and human behavior aspects. Common themes include the role of misinformation, government response, and the impact of pandemics on society.
4. Misinformation can greatly impact the spread and impact of pandemics. It can lead to fear, panic, and the breakdown of societal trust. In pandemic literature, misinformation often exacerbates the situation, causing chaos and contributing to the downfall of societies within the narrative.
5. Pandemic novels delve into the depths of human nature, morality, and the consequences of crisis. They explore how individuals and societies respond to extreme circumstances, revealing both the best and worst aspects of humanity. Pandemic literature often raises questions about ethics, survival instincts, and the fragility of societal structures.

## Questions – Comprehension *(Answers will vary, but some example answers are provided below)*

1. The setting is a secluded abbey with seven colored rooms, representing the stages of life. The abbey's isolation and the presence of the Red Death outside create a sense of confinement and impending doom, contributing to the atmosphere of dread.
2. The seven rooms symbolize the stages of life and the passage of time. They represent the illusion of control and the inevitability of death. Each room is progressively darker, symbolizing the progression towards death and the futility of escaping it.

# "Masque of the Red Death" by Edgar Allan Poe ANSWER KEY

3. Prince Prospero is motivated by his desire to escape the Red Death and preserve his own life. He takes shelter in the abbey, isolating himself from the suffering outside. His actions reflect human arrogance as he believes he can defy death and protect himself from the inevitable.
4. Poe uses vivid imagery and symbolism to depict death in the form of the Red Death and the clock. The imagery of the masked figure and the decaying corpse in the final room emphasizes the inescapability and finality of death.
5. The masked figure symbolizes the presence of the Red Death and represents death itself. Its sudden appearance and mysterious nature contribute to the atmosphere of terror, reminding the characters of their mortality and imminent demise.
6. The clock symbolizes the passage of time and the ticking of one's life nearing its end. Its chiming interrupts the festivities, serving as a reminder of mortality and instilling a sense of unease and foreboding in the characters and the overall mood.
7. Poe builds suspense and tension through foreshadowing, hinting at the impending doom through descriptions of the Red Death and the abbey's isolation. He also uses pacing to create a sense of urgency and increasing tension as the story progresses towards its climax.
8. The isolation of Prince Prospero and his guests creates a false sense of security and separates them from the suffering outside. However, this isolation ultimately leads to their downfall as they cannot escape the reach of the Red Death, highlighting the theme of the inevitability of death.
9. The characters' actions and choices reflect their moral values or lack thereof. Prince Prospero's selfishness and disregard for others' suffering demonstrate a lack of morality, while the masked figure's presence serves as a moral reminder of the consequences of their actions.
10. Through "The Masque of the Red Death," Poe conveys the message that death is inevitable and cannot be escaped, regardless of one's wealth or status. He criticizes human arrogance and the futile attempts to defy death, emphasizing the transience of life and the need to confront the reality of mortality.

**Map – Map designs will vary, but appropriate room color are listed below:**

Room 1 – Blue, Room 2 - Purple, Room 3 – Green, Room 4 – Orange, Room 5 – White, Room 6 – Violet, Room 7 - Black