Tuesday:  The Elements of Fiction, PLOT: pages 1742 – 1746  
Poe’s The Importance of the Single Effect in a Prose Tale, p 1661 – 1663  
Poe’s Art of Transformation in “The Cask” p 1678 – 1681

Questions to consider as you re-read:

- How does Montressor’s opening paragraph explain the conflict in the story and foreshadow its resolution?
- How does Montressor’s apparent concern for Fortunato’s health enhance the suspense of the inevitable climax?
- How do Montressor’s name, attire, coat of arms, and family motto help to establish his character?
- How does Montressor use his knowledge of Fortunato’s character to manipulate him?
- How does the “supreme madness of the carnival season” provide an appropriate environment for Montressor to initiate his plot?
- How do the catacombs provide the appropriate setting for Montressor’s revenge?
- What does Montressor assume his reader knows about “the nature of my soul”?
- What do Montressor’s own screams reveal about his point of view toward his revenge?
- Why has he waited a half century to tell this story?

Terms to understand for your analysis:

- Plot (chronological, in medias res, flashback)
- Exposition
- Rising action
- Climax / turning point
- Falling action
- Conclusion or denouement

WRITING: DUE THURSDAY, October 8th

Please choose from the following questions (numbered) for each author. Choose one numbered question for Poe (half-page) and one for Gilman (backside).

Guidelines: word-process; write one (and only one) full page single-spaced; include a heading in the upper left-hand corner: your name, the date, ENG104 WW#2

Poe’s Cask

1. Some readers believe that Poe is playing with our (reader’s) pride in the same way that Montressor is playing with Fortunato’s pride. Develop this analogy. What storytelling techniques (use the terms from “The Elements of Fiction” page 1742 – 1757) relating to plot does Poe use to lure us on in the story?

2. Study Poe’s essay, “The Single Effect in the Prose Tale.” Use your own words to explain the “single effect.” What is the single effect in “Cask of Amontillado”? How well does Poe use the elements of the story (plot, character, setting, point-of-view) to contribute to this single effect?
Thursday:  

- The Yellow Wallpaper, by Charlotte Perkins Gilman, p 467  
- A Feminist Reading of Gilman’s “The Yellow Wallpaper,” p 1458  
- Undergoing the Cure for Nervous Prostration, p 1460  
- Why I Wrote “The Yellow Wallpaper,” p 1463

Gilman’s The Yellow Wall-Paper

- This story was written in the year 1892. Do you think that the issues this story raises are contemporary issues as well – as important in the year 2009 as they were in the year 1892? If you do, then in what ways? If not, then is this story stuck to a particular historical circumstance? Explain.

- FEMINIST ANALYSIS: In their essay, “A Feminist Reading”, Gilbert and Gubar write that “an escape from the numb world behind the patterned walls of the text was a flight from disease into health.” Explain this interpretation. Who is escaping and from what is she escaping?

- Consider all that the wallpaper represents in this story. If you were to write a similar contemporary story, what image (like the wallpaper) would you use to create the same kind of meaning? Write a paragraph of your updated story.

- Like Poe’s narrator in “Cask of Amontillado,” the narrator in The Yellow Wallpaper is in a state of neurotic compulsion. But she is no homicidal maniac. Unlike Poe, Gilman suggests that the bondage of conventional marriage has driven her heroine to the brink of madness. Compare/contrast the two narrators.