

‘THE MASQUE OF THE RED DEATH’

1. What is causing the deaths of people across the country in the story?

- A. a long war
- B. a mental illness
- C. a terrible disease
- D. an unknown force

2. Prince Prospero protects his friends by

- A. locking them in his home
- B. killing all intruders
- C. fanning them with fresh air
- D. placing guards outside

3. The person who causes the commotion within the party is dressed as

- A. Prince Prospero’s dead body
- B. the dead King Herod
- C. the Greek image of Death
- D. a victim of the Red Death

4. Choose the paraphrase that best clarifies the meaning of the following excerpt about Prince Prospero: “He bore aloft a dagger, and had approached, in rapid impetuosity, to within three or four feet of the retreating figure, when the latter, having attained the extremity of the velvet apartment, turned suddenly and confronted the pursuer.”

- A. He ran at the figure with a knife until the figure reached the black room and turned to confront him.
- B. He dashed into the black room with a knife and stabbed the masked figure.
- C. He ran into the black room so that he could confront the figure before the figure got there.
- D. He grabbed a knife and ran into the black room after the figure went into the room.

5. If you impede people, you

- A. give them happiness
- B. take care of them
- C. worry about them
- D. slow their progress

6. The party may be an allegory for extravagance to show the moral lesson that

- A. large costume parties make people forget death
- B. death comes for the wealthy as well as the poor
- C. costumes can greatly affect the mood of a party
- D. only wealth can keep a person safe from illness

7. A reverie is a

- A. sing-along
- B. musical
- C. daydream
- D. celebration

8. What happens at the end of the party?

- A. The party continues forever.
- B. Everyone dies from the Red Death.
- C. People flee from the hall in fear.
- D. The Prince wanders the countryside.

9. Choose the paraphrase that best clarifies the meaning of the following passage.

“And thus, too, it happened, perhaps, that before the last echoes of the last chime had utterly sunk into silence, there were many individuals in the crowd who had found leisure to become aware of the presence of a masked figure which had arrested the attention of no single individual before.”

- A. The clock chimed and revealed masked people that the narrator had noticed before.
- B. Before the last chime ended, many people noticed a masked person that no one had seen before.
- C. The last chime of the clock revealed a masked person that many people noticed before.
- D. Many people noticed the masks that people were wearing before the last bell chimed.

10. What does blasphemous mean?

- A. understanding
- B. disrespectful
- C. unconnected
- D. frightening

11. What recurring sound disturbs the people at the party?

12. Explain one detail about the unknown masked figure that the author includes to create a feeling of terror surrounding the figure.

13. Describe the seventh room and its furnishings.

Bonus: What is the name of the author of the story?

