


Reading Check

1. How do Prince Prospero and his friends try to escape from the Red Death?
2. Describe the seven rooms of the prince's suite.
3. Why do the guests avoid the seventh room?
4. How does the masked ball end?

Thinking Critically

5. In the long paragraph that describes the masquerade on pages 499–500, what details suggest madness?
6. What is the **climax** of this horror story—that moment of greatest suspense and emotion, when you know how the problem in the story is going to be resolved?
7. Most readers agree that this story can be interpreted as an **allegory**. What might each of the following characters, events, or colors, represent?
 - Prince Prospero (consider even the significance of his name)
 - the masked ball
 - the colors of the seven rooms
 - the seventh room itself
 - the ebony clock
 - the masked figure
8. In a sentence or two, summarize what you think is the story's **allegorical meaning**—the symbolic meaning behind the surface narrative. What do you think this story might be saying about our passages through life and to death? What does this additional level of meaning add to your appreciation of the story?


9. What unanswered questions do you have about this story? 
10. Review the **Connection** on page 505. What parallels are there between the way Poe's characters react to the Red Death and the way people reacted to the Black Death in Europe?

Extending and Evaluating

11. According to Poe, every literary element in a story should be directed to achieve "a certain single effect." Decide what you think Poe's intended effect is in this story. Then, evaluate how well he achieves his goal. Support your evaluation with details from the story.

WRITING

The Great Escape

Write a **story** of your own about a group of people who retreat to an isolated place in order to escape some danger. Before you write, decide what emotional effect you want to create in your story: horror? humor? irony? You might even consider writing your story so that it parodies Poe's story, or imitates it in a comical way. Refer to your Quickwrite notes for ideas. Filling out a story map like the one below before you write might help you. 

Setting:

Characters:

Problem:

Main events:

Climax:



Literary Skills
Analyze allegory.

Reading Skills
Monitor your reading by asking questions.

Writing Skills
Write a short story.