

THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF USHER

Comprehension Questions Part Two

Paragraph 7: From 'To an anomalous species of terror...' to '...passionate tears.'

Vocabulary

Dread - shudder - abhorrence - struggle - grim - dwelling - tenderly-beloved - decease - bitterness - mingled with - stupor - glance - wanness - trickle

1. What does Usher attribute his gloomy disposition to in this paragraph (two things, in your own words, and quoting from the text)?
2. What is he bitter about?

Paragraph 8: From 'The disease of the lady Madeleine...' to '...would be seen by me no more.'

Vocabulary

Baffle - to waste away - cataleptical - a glimpse

3. What is Death referred to in this paragraph by the narrator?

Paragraph 9: From 'For several days ensuing' to '... the certainly glowing yet too concrete reveries of Fuseli.'

Vocabulary

Endeavours - distempered - alleviate - recess - convey - dirge

4. What feelings do Roderick Usher's paintings elicit in the narrator (in your own words and quote)?

Paragraph 10: 'One of the phantasmagoric conceptions of my friend...' to 'in a ghastly and inappropriate splendor.'

Phantasmagoric - vault - ghastly

In this paragraph, one of Roderick's paintings is described - what is it a painting of?

Paragraph 11: From 'I have just spoken of that morbid condition...' to '...but smile no more.'

Vocabulary

Stringed instruments - narrow - fervid - totter - wanderers - wit - wisdom - mourn - discordant

5. What is the name of the ballad in this paragraph?
6. When (in which verse) does the mood in the ballad change? Quote the line.

Paragraph 12: From 'I well remember...' to '...the Vigiliae Mortuorum secundum Chorum Ecclesiae Maguntinae.'

7. What strange idea does Roderick Usher share with the narrator in this paragraph (your own words)?

Paragraph 13: From 'I could not help thinking of the wild ritual of this work...' to '...a harmless, and by no means an unnatural precaution.'

8. What does Roderick decide to do with his sister's body?

Paragraph 14: From 'At the request of Usher' to '... fantastic yet impressive superstitions.'

9. What does the narrator find out about Roderick and his sister?

10. How does Roderick's behaviour change after he has buried his sister (own words and justify)?

11. What effect does Roderick's mood have on the narrator (own words and justify)?