

“Fall of the House of Usher”

Questions in margin of story in textbook pg. 293-310

(skip from the last paragraph on pg. 300 to the 2nd paragraph on pg. 304)

1. (pg. 293) What does the narrator feel at his first glimpse of the House of Usher?
2. (pg. 294) Which details in the illustration reflect the description of the narrator’s first impression of the house?
3. (pg. 296) How do the setting and mood of the story so far (at the beginning) reflect Gothic literary style?
4. (pg. 297) What flaw in the house might a careful observer find?
5. (pg. 298) In your own words, restate the meaning of the sentence beginning “The silken hair...”
6. (pg. 299) In what ways do Usher’s mental state and the house itself typify a work of Gothic literature?
7. (pg. 299) In what ways has Roderick Usher changed since the narrator last saw him?
8. (pg. 304) Clarify the meaning of the sentence beginning “The vault in which we placed it...”
9. (pg. 305) What does the narrator notice about Madeline’s appearance in her coffin?
10. (pg. 306) Which elements of Gothic literature are present in this description of the narrator’s sleepless night?
11. (pg. 307) What odd or unnatural sight does the narrator see when the curtain are opened?
12. (pg. 308) Summarize the action of the paragraph-long sentence beginning “And now, the champion...”
13. (pg. 309) What effect does the description of Usher trembling and rocking help to create?
14. (pg. 309) Which aspects of Gothic literature are apparent in this description (at the end) of Madeline Usher?
15. (pg. 309) What unusual sound does the narrator hear as he reads aloud?