

THE CASK OF AMONTILLADO **Edgar Allan Poe** *Textbook page 210*

REVIEW AND RESPONSE

Dramatic and Verbal Irony

Verbal irony occurs when a writer or speaker says one thing but really means something completely different. **Dramatic irony** occurs when the audience or speaker knows something important that a character in a story or play is unaware of.

Understanding Dramatic and Verbal Irony

Identify each quotation from the story as an example of either verbal or dramatic irony, and explain why it is ironic. The first one has been done for you.

1. Montresor “implores” Fortunato to turn back from the vaults because of his health—

“ ‘Enough,’ [Fortunato] said; ‘the cough is a mere nothing; it will not kill me. I shall not die of a cough.’ ” (p. 211)

dramatic irony _____

Fortunato is unaware of the truth he has spoken—truly a cough will not be the cause of his death.

2. Montresor gives Fortunato a draft of wine, and Fortunato makes a toast—

“ ‘I drink,’ he said, ‘to the buried that repose around us.’ ” (p. 211)

3. Fortunato asks Montresor about his family coat of arms—

“ ‘And the motto?’
‘*Nemo ne impune lacessit.*’
‘Good!’ he said.” (p. 212)

4. Montresor emphasizes the dampness of the vault and once again “implores” Fortunato to turn back—

“The drops of moisture trickle among the bones. Come, we will go back ere it is too late. Your cough—’” (p. 213)

5. Montresor has just secured Fortunato to a granite rock—

“‘But I must first render you all the little attentions in my power.’” (p. 214)

Applying Skills

One of the ironies of the story is that Fortunato contributes to his own end. In what ways does he do so?

Reader's Response

At what point in the story did you realize that this was the night Montresor had chosen for his revenge? Explain how you knew.
