

11TH GRADE

Lesson 1, School Days 1-3

“Fall of the House of Usher”

by Poe: Horror Story

1. Answer the comprehension questions below.
2. Study the vocabulary listed.
3. Take vocabulary quizzes – study and reread the full list; then take quizzes until you can score 100% on each quiz. Then, after a week’s time, reread and retake these quizzes again to reinforce and permanently imprint these words into your mind.

Comprehension/Discussion Questions:

1. Why had the narrator come to the House of Usher?
2. What worried him concerning his friend, Roderick Usher?
3. Describe Lady Madeline’s ailment.
4. Describe the appearance of the House of Usher.
5. Describe the entombment of Lady Madeline.
6. What started happening seven or eight days after she was entombed?
7. Describe two things mentioned in the book the narrator was reading in the House of Usher.
8. Describe the reappearance of Lady Madeline.
9. What happened to the House of Usher at the end?

House of Usher Vocabulary Study Guide (Alphabetized):

abeyance:	temporary disuse
abhorrence:	hatred of something
abroad:	over a wide area
accost:	speak to boldly
aegipans:	mythical fish-tailed goat
afford:	provide
aghast:	horrified
alarumed:	alarmed
alleviation:	soothing, making less severe
allude:	refer to
annihilate:	utterly destroy; wipe out
anomalous:	deviating from the norm
anomaly:	unexpected, abnormal occurrence
anon:	soon
apathy:	state of not caring
appellation:	name
Arabesque:	intertwining ornamental design
assail:	attack
asunder:	torn apart
auditory:	related to hearing
ought:	anything
boon:	beneficial/helpful occurrence
bounden:	old fashioned way to say tied up
brazen:	made of brass; shameless
cadaverous:	like a dead body
career:	speed wildly
casement:	large window that opens like a door
cataleptic:	catatonic (a coma-like state)
causeway:	built up area to drive through a bog
chiromancy:	palm-reading
collateral:	descended from a different line
collocation:	placing side-by-side
compass:	range, as used here
concision:	brevity; keeping it short
conformation:	shape; structure
contrive:	bring about in a crafty way
dally:	move slowly; waste time
demeanor:	bearing; appearance
deplorable:	shameful; unworthy
dint:	power; force
dirge:	solemn funeral music
discernable:	detectable; visible
discordant:	disagreeing; lacking harmony
dissolution:	dissolving; undisciplined living

distemper:	political disorder; puppy disease
donjon-keep:	tall central tower of a castle
doughty:	fearless and persistent
ebony:	black
educe:	bring out; develop
ennui:	boredom; pronounced ah-newie
enunciation:	proper pronunciation
equivocal:	ambiguous; indefinite
facility:	ability; aptitude
fervid:	zealous; impassioned
feudal:	old-fashioned; politically medieval
fissure:	crack; opening
folly:	foolishness; unwise endeavor
forthwith:	quickly
fortnight:	two week period
fretted:	with an interlaced design
futile:	useless; hopeless
futility:	hopelessness
gauntlet:	glove
gibber:	speak quickly/unintelligibly
goad:	provoke; prod
gossamer:	light like spider webbing
Gothic:	built in style of Middle Ages
guttural:	throaty; gruff-sounding
hearken:	listen attentively
hilarity:	great fun with laughter
hitherto:	until now
hypochondriac:	one who always thinks he's sick
ideality:	quality of being ideal
impetuous:	doing things without thinking
importunate:	with repeated pestering requests
impromptu:	without prior practice
improvisation:	drama without prior practice
incoherent:	unclear; muddled
incubus:	nightmare; creepy night spirit
inherent:	genetically born with
inorganization:	lack of organization
insipid:	tasteless; boring; uninspired
interment:	burial
insoluble:	impossible to solve
in sooth:	really; truly
lofty:	tall, grand;
luminous:	glowing
lurid:	glowing; shockingly explicit
luster:	glow

lute:	ancient instrument like a guitar/harp
mace:	club weapon with spikes
malady:	ailment
manifest:	obvious
miasma:	smelly vapor
modulate:	control voice; regulate
mold:	shape
morbid:	causing or concerning death
munificent:	generous
octavo:	book portion of 16 pages (8 folded)
oppressive:	stifling; overbearing
orb:	sphere; heavenly body
orthodox:	conforming to accepted views
pallor:	paleness of facial color
palpable:	able to be touched; tangible
paradoxical:	self-contradicting; incongruous
parley:	discussion; deliberation
patrimony:	money inherited from ones father
pertinacity:	determination; perseverance
pervade:	spread throughout
perusal:	careful read-through
phantasmagoric:	unreal in appearance
pinion:	long wing feathers of a bird
porphyrogene:	of royal birth
precipitous:	steep; sudden
prodigious:	great large
profuse:	plentiful; abundant
prolixity:	tediously wordy (prolix Poe!)
prostrate:	lying flat, face-down
quarto:	book portion of 8 pages (4 pages folded)
rampart:	fortified military barrier
rank:	stinky
reminiscence:	remembering the past
reverberation:	echoing vibration
revel:	wild party
rhapsody:	a gush of feeling
sash:	thin wood holding window panes in
satyr:	mythical goat-man
sedge:	reeds growing in a marsh
sentience:	ability to think/perceive
seraph:	powerful angel
similitude:	similarity
singular:	exceptional; remarkable
sojourn:	temporary stay
solace:	comfort; consolation

sore:	extremely
specious:	misleading in appearance; false
stupor:	dazed or extremely intoxicated state
sublime:	excellent near to perfection
succumbed:	gave in; (to death; temptation)
supposititious:	supposed
tarn:	mountain lake
tempest:	storm
tempestuous:	stormy; very emotional
tenuous:	weak; slight; doubtful
terrestrial:	Earth-bound
transient:	passing; temporary
trellised:	criss-crossed with wood
tremulous:	quivery; shaking
trepidancy:	fear; trepidation
trepidation:	fear
trestle:	cross-braced framework
turret:	castle lookout tower
uncouth:	bad-mannered and rude
upbraid:	scold
vagary:	sudden unexpected changes
valet:	servant to help man dress
vivacious:	lively
wan:	pale
wane:	reduce; subside
whence:	from where
withal:	besides
whither:	to where
without:	outside
wont:	custom

Vocab Quizzes for Usher**Quiz A**

___ abeyance	a. from different blood line, as used here
___ boon	b. book part with 8 folded pages
___ collateral	c. beneficial occurrence
___ donjon-keep	d. extremely
___ manifest	e. temporary disuse
___ pertinacity	f. determination/perseverance
___ quarto	g. tall central tower of castle
___ revel	h. pale
___ sore	i. wild party
___ wan	j. obvious

Quiz B

___ abhorrence	a. hatred of something
___ compass	b. bad-mannered and rude
___ ennui	c. range, as used here
___ gibber	d. custom
___ insoluble	e. boredom (say ah nwee)
___ mold	f. impossible to solve
___ pallor	g. shape
___ rampart	h. fortified military barrier
___ uncouth	i. speak quickly/unintelligibly
___ wont	j. paleness of facial color

Quiz C

___ abroad	a. besides
___ auditory	b. passing; temporary
___ conformation	c. crack; opening
___ distemper	d. political chaos; pup disease
___ fissure	e. related to hearing
___ hitherto	f. over a wide area
___ lute	g. unreal in appearance
___ phantasmagoric	h. until now
___ transient	i. shape; structure
___ withal	j. ancient stringed instrument

Quiz D

___ afford	a. provide
___ bounden	b. ambiguous; indefinite
___ contrive	c. ailment
___ equivocal	d. stormy; very emotional
___ gossamer	e. light like spider webbing
___ importunate	f. echoing vibration
___ malady	g. pestering with requests
___ palpable	h. bring about in a crafty way
___ reverberation	i. able to be touched; tangible
___ tempestuous	j. old way to say tied up

Quiz E

___ accost	a. black
___ Arabesque	b. intertwining design
___ concision	c. generous
___ ebony	d. quality of being ideal
___ ideality	e. brevity; keeping it short
___ munificent	f. speak to boldly
___ prodigious	g. great large
___ singular	h. to where
___ terrestrial	i. Earth-bound
___ whither	j. exceptional; remarkable

Quiz F

___ aghast	a. stinky
___ aught	b. lying flat, face-down
___ collocation	c. criss-crossed with wood
___ discordant	d. lack of organization
___ futile	e. useless; hopeless
___ inorganization	f. sphere; heavenly body
___ orb	g. placing side-by-side
___ prostrate	h. anything
___ rank	i. horrified
___ trellised	j. disagreeing; no harmony

Quiz G

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| ___ asunder | a. from where |
| ___ discernable | b. quivery; shaking |
| ___ feudal | c. mythical goat-man |
| ___ hypochondriac | d. steep; sudden |
| ___ luster | e. always thinks he's sick |
| ___ precipitous | f. old-fashioned, politically |
| ___ satyr | g. torn apart |
| ___ sublime | h. excellent near to perfection |
| ___ tremulous | i. glow |
| ___ whence | j. detectable; visible |

Quiz H

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| ___ alleviation | a. glowing |
| ___ assail | b. mountain lake |
| ___ chiromancy | c. great fun with laughter |
| ___ enunciation | d. reeds growing in a marsh |
| ___ hilarity | e. proper pronunciation |
| ___ luminous | f. discussion; deliberation |
| ___ parley | g. palm-reading |
| ___ sedge | h. servant to help man dress |
| ___ tarn | i. attack |
| ___ valet | j. soothing, make less severe |

Quiz I

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| ___ allude | a. unexpected changes |
| ___ cadaverous | b. careful read-through |
| ___ deplorable | c. shameful; unworthy |
| ___ fervid | d. causing/concerning death |
| ___ impetuous | e. supposed |
| ___ morbid | f. a gush of feeling |
| ___ perusal | g. zealous; passionate |
| ___ rhapsody | h. acts without thinking |
| ___ supposititious | i. like a dead body |
| ___ vagaries | j. refer to |

Quiz J

___annihilate	a. drama without practice
___casement	b. utterly destroy; wipe out
___educer	c. scold
___goad	d. club weapon with spikes
___improvisation	e. window opens like a door
___mace	f. storm
___patrimony	g. provoke; prod
___similitude	h. similarity
___tempest	i. \$ inherited from father
___upbraid	j. bring out; develop

Quiz K

___anomalous	a. of royal birth
___brazen	b. smelly vapor
___dally	c. deviating from norm
___folly	d. made of brass; shameless
___gauntlet	e. misleading; false
___insipid	f. move slowly; waste time
___miasma	g. foolishness; unwise plan
___porphyrogene	h. cross-braced framework
___specious	i. glove
___trestle	j. tasteless; boring; uninspired

Quiz L

___anomaly	a. thin wood holding panes
___cataleptic	b. catatonic, coma-like state
___dissolution	c. outside
___futility	d. abnormal occurrence
___incubus	e. remembering the past
___octavo	f. dissolving; wild living
___pinion	g. nightmare; night spirit
___reminiscence	h. book portion of 16 pages
___sash	i. hopelessness
___without	j. long wing feathers of bird

Quiz M

- | | |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| ___anon | a. soon |
| ___causeway | b. built in style of Middle Ages |
| ___demeanor | c. built up area to drive through bog |
| ___Gothic | d. tedious wordyness (ala Poe!) |
| ___inherent | e. reduce; subside |
| ___modulate | f. genetically born with |
| ___prolixity | g. bearing; appearance |
| ___sentience | h. control voice; regulate |
| ___tenuous | i. ability to think/perceive |
| ___wane | j. weak; slight; doubtful |

Quiz N

- | | |
|--------------|------------------------------------|
| ___apathy | a. gave in; (to death; temptation) |
| ___career | b. burial |
| ___dint | c. power; force |
| ___facility | d. lively |
| ___hearken | e. listen attentively |
| ___interment | f. state of not caring |
| ___orthodox | g. ability; aptitude |
| ___profuse | j. plentiful; abundant |
| ___succumbed | h. conforming to accepted views |
| ___vivacious | i. speed wildly |

Quiz O

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| ___appellation | a. name |
| ___dirge | b. solemn funeral music |
| ___fretted | c. unclear; muddled |
| ___incoherent | d. spread throughout |
| ___lurid | e. with an interlaced design |
| ___oppressive | f. castle lookout tower |
| ___pervade | g. stifling; overbearing |
| ___solace | h. comfort; consolation |
| ___trepidation | i. glowing; shockingly explicit |
| ___turret | j. fear |

Quiz P

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| ___doughty | a . throaty; gruff-sounding |
| ___forthwith | b . quickly |
| ___fortnight | c . tall, grand |
| ___guttural | d . powerful angel |
| ___in sooth | e . fearless and persistent |
| ___lofty | f . self-contradicting |
| ___aegipans | g . temporary stay |
| ___paradoxical | h . two week period |
| ___seraph | i . mythical fish-tailed goat |
| ___sojourn | j . really; truly |

Usher Vocab. Answer Keys:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
e	a	f	a	f	i	g
c	c	e	j	b	h	j
a	e	i	h	e	g	f
g	i	d	b	a	j	e
j	f	c	e	d	e	i
f	g	h	g	c	d	d
b	j	j	c	g	f	c
i	h	d	i	j	b	h
d	b	b	f	i	a	b
h	d	a	d	h	c	a

H	I	J	K	L	M	N
j	j	b	c	d	a	f
i	i	e	d	b	c	i
g	c	j	f	f	g	c
e	g	g	g	i	b	g
c	h	a	i	g	f	e
a	d	d	j	h	h	b
f	b	i	b	j	d	h
d	f	h	a	e	i	j
b	e	f	e	a	j	a
h	a	c	h	c	e	d

O	P
a	e
b	b
e	h
c	a
i	j
g	c
d	i
h	f
j	d
f	g