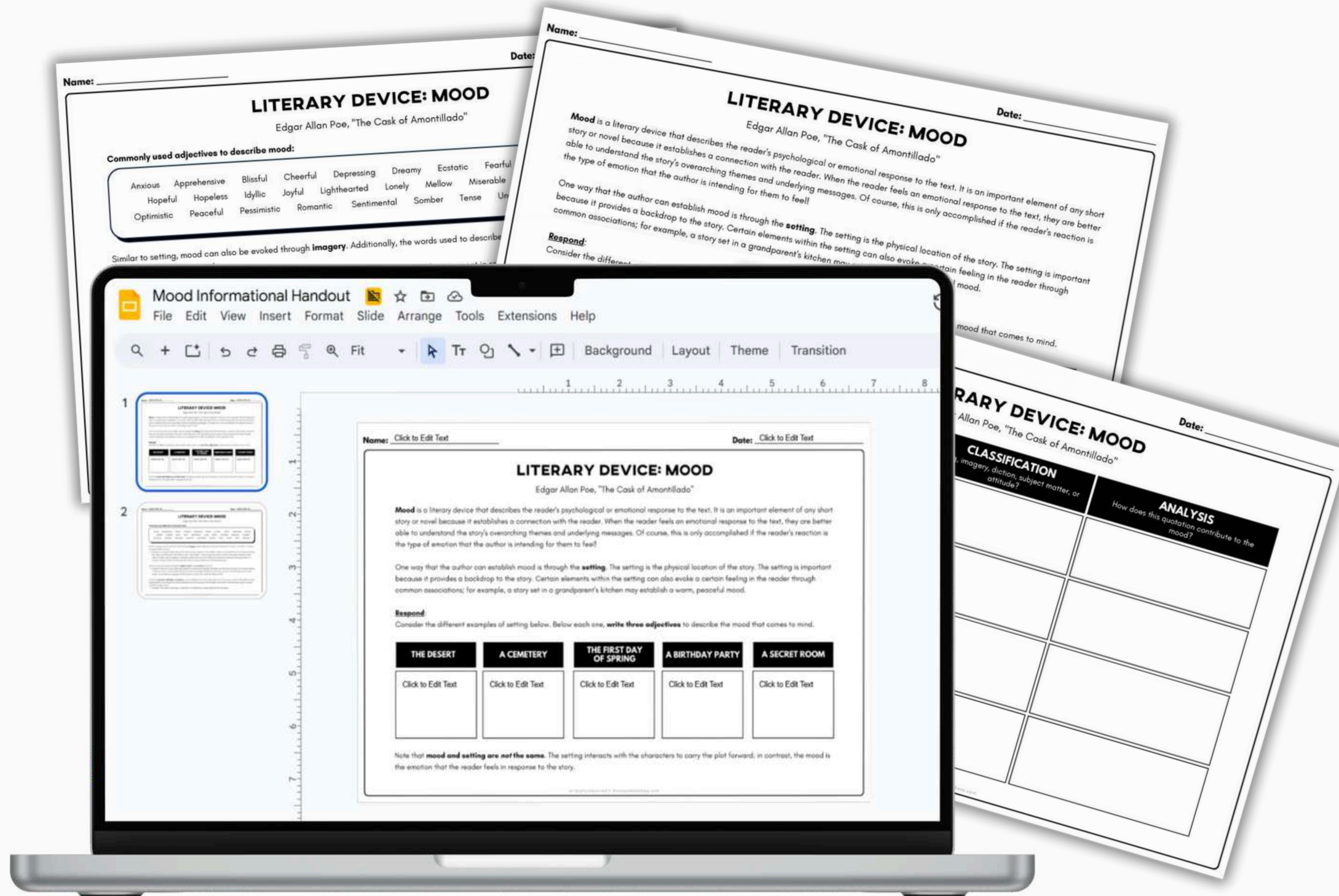


# “The Cask of Amontillado” Literary Analysis Activity

Students will explore the role of mood in this classic short story



- **Differentiate between setting and mood** using informational handouts that define key terms and clarify common student misconceptions.
- **Strengthen literary analysis skills** with a graphic organizer guiding students through close reading of quotations from the story.
- **Expand descriptive vocabulary** by applying thirty mood-related adjectives to analyze Poe’s atmospheric writing in a classic short story.

Explore how the author establishes mood using this literary analysis activity!

**PURCHASE HERE**

# Included with this resource:



## Informational Handouts about Setting and Mood

- Differentiate between setting and mood as literary devices
- Determine how an author establishes mood within a story
- Explore adjectives for describing mood and practice by applying them to common settings

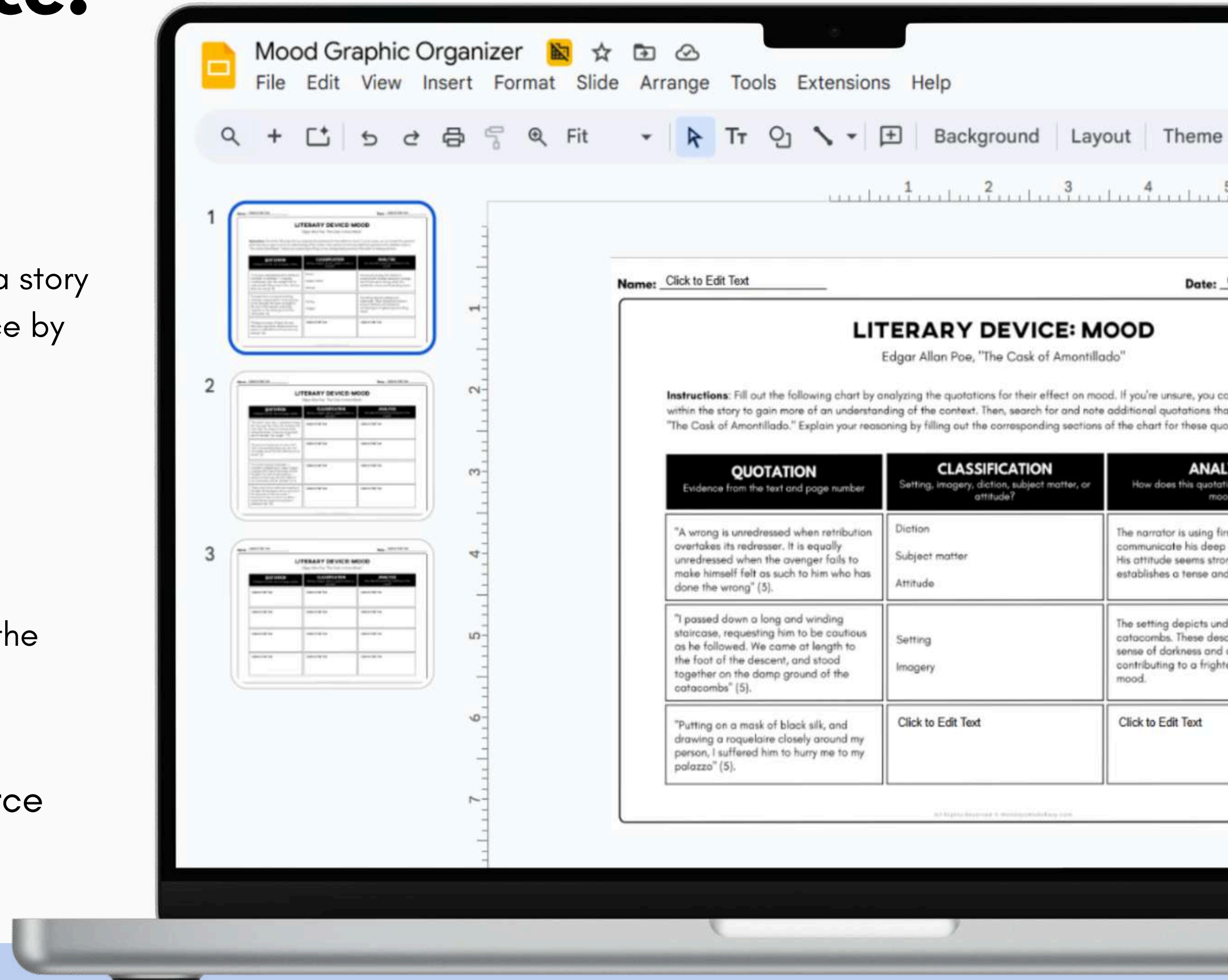


## Close Reading Quotations Graphic Organizer for Analyzing Mood

- Analyze quotations from "The Cask of Amontillado"
- Locate quotations within the short story to explain the author's illustration of mood



## Teacher Instructions for how to use this resource



Includes Digital Version for Google Drive®

# Explore 11 Quotations from “The Cask of Amontillado”

Students will analyze the author’s use of mood in the short story and locate evidence to further examine this literary device

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**LITERARY DEVICE: MOOD**  
Edgar Allan Poe, "The Cask of Amontillado"

QUOTATION Evidence from the text and page number	CLASSIFICATION Setting, imagery, diction, subject matter, or attitude?	ANALYSIS How does this quotation contribute to the mood?
"The niter!" I said; "see, it increases. It hangs like moss upon the vaults. We are below the river's bed. The drops of moisture trickle among the bones. Come, we will go back ere it is too late. Your cough -"		
"Once more I implore you to return. No? Then I must positively leave you. But I will first render you all the little attentions in my power."		
"For a brief moment I hesitated - I trembled. Unsheathing my rapier, I began to grope with it about the recess; but the thought of an instant reassured me. I placed my hand upon the solid fabric of the catacombs, and felt satisfied."		
"There came forth in reply only a jingling of the bells. My heart grew sick on account of the dampness of the catacombs. I hastened to make an opening in the wall, and forced the last stone into its place. I plastered it up, and in the wall I made a hole as narrow as a keyhole."		

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**LITERARY DEVICE: MOOD**  
Edgar Allan Poe, "The Cask of Amontillado"

QUOTATION Evidence from the text and page number	CLASSIFICATION Setting, imagery, diction, subject matter, or attitude?	ANALYSIS How does this quotation contribute to the mood?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**LITERARY DEVICE: MOOD**  
Edgar Allan Poe, "The Cask of Amontillado"

**Instructions:** Fill out the following chart by analyzing the quotations for their effect on mood. If you're unsure, you can locate the quotation within the story to gain more of an understanding of the context. Then, search for and note additional quotations that establish mood in "The Cask of Amontillado." Explain your reasoning by filling out the corresponding sections of the chart for these quotations.

QUOTATION Evidence from the text and page number	CLASSIFICATION Setting, imagery, diction, subject matter, or attitude?	ANALYSIS How does this quotation contribute to the mood?
"A wrong is unredressed when retribution overtakes its redresser. It is equally unredressed when the avenger fails to make himself felt as such to him who has done the wrong."	Diction Subject matter Attitude	The narrator is using firm diction to communicate his deep desires for revenge. His attitude seems strong-willed. This establishes a tense and foreboding mood.
"I passed down a long and winding staircase, requesting him to be cautious as he followed. We came at length to the foot of the descent, and stood together on the damp ground of the catacombs."	Setting Imagery	The setting depicts underground catacombs. These descriptions evoke a sense of darkness and dampness, contributing to a frightening and chilling mood.
"Putting on a mask of black silk, and drawing a roque-laire closely around my person, I suffered him to hurry me to my palazzo."		

**ANSWER KEY INCLUDED!**

# Includes Mood Informational Handout

Differentiate setting and mood to make these literary concepts easier for students to grasp

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## LITERARY DEVICE: MOOD

Edgar Allan Poe, "The Cask of Amontillado"

**Mood** is a literary device that describes the reader's psychological or emotional response to the text. It is an important element of any short story or novel because it establishes a connection with the reader. When the reader feels an emotional response to the text, they are better able to understand the story's overarching themes and underlying messages. Of course, this is only accomplished if the reader's reaction is the type of emotion that the author is intending for them to feel!

One way that the author can establish mood is through the **setting**. The setting is the physical location of the story. The setting is important because it provides a backdrop to the story. Certain elements within the setting can also evoke a certain feeling in the reader through common associations; for example, a story set in a grandparent's kitchen may establish a warm, peaceful mood.

**Respond:**  
Consider the different examples of setting below. Below each one, **write three adjectives** to describe the mood that comes to mind.

<b>THE DESERT</b>	<b>A CEMETERY</b>	<b>THE FIRST DAY OF SPRING</b>	<b>A BIRTHDAY PARTY</b>	<b>A SECRET ROOM</b>

Note that **mood and setting are not the same**. The setting interacts with the characters to carry the plot forward; in contrast, the mood is the emotion that the reader feels in response to the story.

All Rights Reserved © MondaysMadeEasy.com

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## LITERARY DEVICE: MOOD

Edgar Allan Poe, "The Cask of Amontillado"

**Commonly used adjectives to describe mood:**

Anxious	Apprehensive	Blissful	Cheerful	Depressing	Dreamy	Ecstatic	Fearful	Foreboding	Gloomy
Hopeful	Hopeless	Idyllic	Joyful	Lighthearted	Lonely	Mellow	Miserable	Mysterious	Nostalgic
Optimistic	Peaceful	Pessimistic	Romantic	Sentimental	Somber	Tense	Uneasy	Warm	Whimsical

Similar to setting, mood can also be evoked through **imagery**. Additionally, the words used to describe the setting - the diction - can have a powerful effect on mood.

- Example: In *The Great Gatsby*, the narrator Nick Carraway states that "the loneliest moment in someone's life is when they are watching their whole world fall apart, and all they can do is stare blankly." In this passage, the author creates a depressing image that might make the reader uneasy, hopeless, or miserable. Additionally, the diction utilizes onomatopoeia to emphasize the long and short "o" sounds and create a sense of hollowness; this choice of words contributes to the depressing mood.

Mood can also be conveyed through the **subject matter** and **outcomes** of the plot.

- Example: If the story is about delivering a speech to a large room of people, the reader may feel anxious leading up to the performance or relieved to learn it goes smoothly. Similarly, emotions exchanged between two characters may elicit a related response from the reader. If a character was arguing with their parents in a story, how would this make you feel?

Finally, the **narrator's attitudes or reactions** can also establish mood. This is especially true for first-person narration. Although the reader experiences the story through the narrator's perspective and has access to their thoughts and emotions, these emotions might not always match the reader's mood.

- Example: If the narrator feels angry, it might elicit an exhilarated or uneasy response from the reader.

All Rights Reserved © MondaysMadeEasy.com

→ Explore **adjectives for describing mood** and practice by applying them to common settings

# See what others are saying...

Here's what teachers like you are loving about this **Literary Analysis Activity!**

 **Extremely Satisfied**

My students loved this. They were struggling with mood and setting connections. This helped tremendously.

– Sherri M.

 **Extremely Satisfied**

This was very helpful to explain the difference between setting and mood, not only for this story but for others.

– Amanda H.