Vocabulary

dreary - dark, depressing, and gloomy

quaint - old-fashioned

curious - strange; unusual

lore - stories thought to be based on truth; myths

chamber - room

'Tis - abbreviation of "it is"

bleak - see "dreary"

ember - the glowing bits left at the bottom of a fireplace

morrow - tomorrow

vainly - without success

sought - tried to get

surecease - an end

nameless - in this poem, no longer to be mentioned

entreating - asking or begging

implore - beg

scarce - hardly

token - indication that something happened

lattice - crossed pieces of wood, similar to those found in a window pane

stately - having excellent manners

yore - times long past

obeisance - acknowledgement of someone with greater authority

mien - air; appearance; dignity

bust - statue of a head

Pallas - Greek god of war and late spring/early summer

Plutonian - reference to Pluto, both the planet (the farthest from the sun) and the god (of the underworld, death, and the dead)

beguiling - trick into feeling pleasure

fancy - imagination

"The Cask of Amontillado"

cask - a very small barrel, usually used to store liquids

Amontillado - A rare and expensive wine

injuries - minor insults

precluded - made impossible

impunity - freedom from being caught or punished

unredressed - not avenged

retribution - punishment

wont - usual practice

immolation - burning to death

gemmary - the study of gems and precious stones

carnival season - Usually, a week-long party in the streets, during which people often dress in costumes that conceal their identity and do things they wouldn't normally do, like drinking to excess

quack - someone who pretends to be an expert in a subject, but actually knows nothing about that subject

motley - a patchwork outfit of bright colors worn by court jesters in medieval times

pipe - a very small barrel, usually used to store liquids

Sherry - A type of very cheap wine

Whither - Where

roquelaire - French for "A long cape or cloak"

palazzo - an Italian mansion

Flambeaux - French for "torches"
Vocabulary

vaults, catacombs - storage area for the bodies of a family's predecessors

nitre - The French name for a white, powdery substance left when water leeches through stone or cement

Medoc - a fine wine

arms - abbreviation of "coat of arms," a set of symbols, composed into a single picture or portrait, that represent the qualities of the family. They often had a motto written at the bottom.

*Nemo me impune lacessit* - Latin for "No one attacks me with impunity"

puncheon - a tool used to open casks

DeGrave - A fine wine

mason - 1) An abbreviation of "Freemason", which refers to a secret society whose members are usually the most important, rich, and powerful people in the region 2) a low-level laborer who works with stones and bricks

trowel - a hand tool used by a mason to place and spread cement

crypt - a room or sub-section of a catacomb

niche - a small opening

rapier - a needle-like sword

*In pace requiescat* - Latin for "Rest in peace"

"The Tell-Tale Heart"

acute - particularly sensitive

hearken - listen

dissimulation - sneakiness

vexed - bothered; disturbed; angered

profound - wise; clever

sagacity - wisdom; cleverness

barkening - listening; paying attention to

death watch - the name given to a kind of beetle that lived in the walls of older buildings; people believed they would hear these beetles tapping on the walls when someone in the house was going to die

overcharged - filled beyond capacity

tatoo - a rapid beating noise

suavity - politeness

deputed - charged with the responsibility

bade - told

audacity - boldness; pridefulness

reposed - rested

derision - scorn; contempt

hypocritical - belonging to a hypocrite [one who says you should do one thing but does the opposite]

"The Black Cat"

homely - normal; plain

solicit - ask for

expound - add detail to; explain

barroques - French plays

phantasms - ghosts

docility - calmness

disposition - personality

conspicuous - noticeable

sagacious - intelligent; wise

derivable - able to be gotten from

paltry - weak

gossamer - thin; insubstantial

fidelity - loyalty
Vocabulary

- not uncongenial - matched with
- partiality - enjoyment of
- latter - last item listed
- tinctured - tainted; mixed with
- Pluto - both the planet (the farthest from the sun) and the god (of the underworld, death, and the dead) - both are dark
- temperament - temper; behavior
- instrumentality - workings
- Fiend - demon
- Intemperance - drinking alcohol
- radical - major
- alteration - change
- intemperate language - yelling; swearing
- scruple - belief that something is right, good, or correct (as opposed to evil)
- peevish - irritable; easily annoyed
- malevolence - desire to do evil
- gin-nurtured - brought on by alcohol
- damnable atrocity - evil action that should send its doer to Hell
- debauch - sinful act (here, drinking)
- feeble - weak
- equivocal - could be argued for or against; not strongly in favor of or against
- perverseness - a desire to do the opposite of what we know we should do
- indivisible - unable to be broken down into something smaller; most basic
- primary - most basic

- faculties - thoughts; the human mind
- perpetual - always ongoing
- inclination - desire
- overthrow - the end of something
- unfathomable - can't be understood
- consummate - to carry out something that had only be thought about before
- conflagration - very large fire
- resigned myself - decided to believe despite not wanting to
- thenceforward - from then on
- atrocity - terrible, horrifying event
- graven - carved
- apparition - a ghost
- reflection - thinking
- adjacent to - next to
- vile - disgusting
- habitually - frequently, as if by habit
- stupefied - senseless
- reposing - laying down upon
- hogshead - giant barrel
- evinced - demonstrated; showed
- domesticated - became familiar and comfortable with living in a house
- unutterable - so great an amount it cannot be expressed in words
- loathing - hatred
- odious - disgusting
- pestilence - horrible disease
- endeared - caused to be emotionally closer to
Vocabulary

aversion - dislike of

pertinacity - stubbornness;
tenaciousness

chimeras - in this case, something that is not real

imperceptible - not able to be noticed

rigorous - exact

distinctness - clearness

ghastly - horrifying

gallows - the apparatus used to hang people, consisting of a wooden platform with an arm above it from which hangs a rope with a noose at the end; a trap door opens in the wooden platform, dropping the victim and causing the noose to tighten and break the neck

brute - unthinking creature

incumbent - resting; lying

remnant - tiny bit left

succumbed - gave in; fell victim to

intimates - people one shares private thoughts and feelings with

ungovernable - unable to be controlled

compelled - forced

exasperated - made angry

hitherto - before now

stayed - stopped; prevented by yourself

arrested - stopped; prevented by someone else

goaded - pushed; teased

deliberation - here, specific purposefullness

minute (my-newt) - tiny

deliberated - thought about

porter - a person who moves boxes and packages for money

expedient - efficient or quick way of getting something done

procured - gotten

forebore - refused

bosom - breast; heart; chest

premises - building; location

inquiries - requests for information

felicity - happiness

inscrutability - so difficult to see as to be beyond the ability to be noticed

bade - requested; required

allayed - removed

rabid - crazy; thoughtless

frenzy - craziness

bravado - showy courageousness

Arch-Fiend - the Devil

reverberation - echo

anomalous - unlike anything else

conjointly - in conjunction with; produced by working together

exult - revel; enjoy greatly

folly - silliness; ridiculous

swooning - getting dizzy through sudden loss of blood to the head

stout - strong

bodily - as a giant piece

seduced - lured; tricked

consigned - given possession of something to someone new