

# Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849)

## The Cask of Amontillado (1846)

Questions & work points:

- 1) Describe the characters
- 2) Describe the narrative technique
  - why did Poe choose this technique, and what is the effect?
- 3) Read the first three paragraphs intensively.
  - what are we told?
  - how does he address us - his readers?
  - what is the effect?
- 4) The line of action
  - how is Fortunato to be trapped - explain and comment
  - how come he meets him in the street? by accident? explain.
- 5) Comment on the coat of Arms and the family motto (page 3 – *and see below*)
- 6) Comment on the use of irony in the short story. Give examples and explain.
- 7) What are the horror elements of this story? Comment also on the way it is structured.
- 8) Comment on the ending
  - does he accomplish his goal as stated at the beginning of the story?

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*Nemo me impune lacessit* is the [Latin](#) motto of the [Order of the Thistle](#) and of three [Scottish regiments](#) of the [British Army](#).

The motto also appears, in conjunction with the [collar](#) of the Order of the Thistle, in later versions of the [Royal coat of arms](#) of the [Kingdom of Scotland](#) and subsequently in the version of the [Royal coat of arms of the United Kingdom](#) used in [Scotland](#).

It is often translated as *No one attacks me with impunity*, or rendered in [Scots](#) as *Wha daur meddle wi' me?*

It is also alternatively translated into English as *No one can harm me unpunished*.

(from: [Wikipedia.org](#))

