**Model Paper**

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| **Prompt:** In your opinion, does Fortunato from*The Cask of Amontillado*, symbolizes a real life rival of Edgar Allan Poe? Why or why not? |

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| **Claim:** Fortunato from Edgar Allan Poe’s story, *The Cask of Amontillado*, symbolizes Poe’s revengeful feelings towards his real life rival, Thomas Dunn English, who insulted Poe in real life.  |

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| **Justification # 1:** First, Poe and English were both writers and had been close friends until a disagreement turned them into rivals. Their real life rivalry is symbolized in the story between Montresor and Fortunato. **Textual Evidence # 1:** According to the text, this is shown from column one in the story when Montresor speaks of the insults from Fortunato, “The thousand injuries of Fortunato I had borne as I best could, but when he ventured upon insult I vowed revenge.”**Explanation of Textual Evidence:** Montresor explains his motive for revenge in this example to his audience. Montresor explains that he was insulted numerous times by Fortunato and that he can now only think of revenge.  |

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| **Justification # 2:** Second, Poe also makes his revengeful feelings towards English clear with the family motto that he gives Montresor’s character. **Textual Evidence # 2:** According to the text, this is shown from column two in the story when the reader learns about Montresor’s family motto, “*Nemo me impune lacessit.*” **Explanation of Textual Evidence:** The motto means no one can insult without impunity. The motto symbolizes Poe’s hatred towards his rival who cannot go unpunished. Poe uses Fortunato to symbolize his real life rival who insulted him in real life. Poe then uses Montresor and his family crest to symbolize that Poe’s rival must face revenge for his insults.   |

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| **Conclusion and counter claim:** In conclusion, I maintain the position that the rivalry between Fortunato and Montresor symbolizes the real life rivalry between Poe and English. An opposite opinion is that Fortunato’s character does not symbolize Poe’s revengeful feelings towards his real life rival, English. I disagree with this view, however. Both Poe and English had been friends who reached serious disagreements that had turned them into enemies like Montresor and Fortunato. Poe uses Fortunato’s character to represent the insults Poe received in real life. Poe also uses Montresor’s revengeful killing of Fortunato and Montresor’s family motto (no one can insult me without punishment) to represent his true feelings towards his real life rival, English.  |