

The Masque of the Red Death by Edgar Allan Poe  
*Discussion Questions*

1. How does social-economic status affect if one survives or falls victim to the Red Death?
2. There is no allusion to where or how the “Red Death” *originally* began, only to how it spreads. Why?
3. What do you make of the colors of the chambers? Furthermore, there is an emphasis on the most eastern chamber being blue and the most western being black velvet and red. Why might this be?
4. Since time is referenced so often, what is its importance to the story? And what is the meaning behind the hourly striking of the clock?
5. How do the prince and his guests act like a disease in a body?
6. How do you think the Red Death entered the Prince’s abbey that was sealed in “deep seclusion” from the rest of the world?