

Inference (Model)

Name: _____ Date: _____

An inference is a reasonable guess based on information. Making an inference is sometimes called “reading between the lines,” because the inference is not stated *directly* in the information you have. The information *leads you* to the inference.

| Evidence | My Inference |
|---|---|
| “The thousand injuries of Fortunato I had borne as I best could. . .” | It seems like the narrator has suffered at the hands of Fortunato many times. He says he suffered a “thousand” times. That seems like a lot. I wonder what Fortunato did to the narrator to make him feel like that. I infer that he is so angry, he will do something to Fortunato to get back at him. |
| “You, who so well know the nature of my soul . . .” | The reader doesn’t know the narrator, we just met him. But he says that we know him. I infer the narrator wants the reader on his side when he does something awful to Fortunato. |
| “. . .punish but punish with impunity.” (impunity means to be free from consequence) | The speaker wants to punish Fortunato and to make sure he doesn’t get caught. I infer that there is something wrong with the narrator; that this thought of revenge has taken over his whole life. I don’t think he is mentally healthy. |

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The Cask of Amontillado

By Edgar Allan Poe

THE thousand injuries of Fortunato I had borne as I best could, but when he ventured upon insult I vowed revenge. You, who so well know the nature of my soul, will not suppose, however, that gave utterance to a threat. At length I would be avenged; this was a point definitely, settled --but the very definitiveness with which it was resolved precluded the idea of risk. I must not only punish but punish with impunity.

Inference (Abridged Model)

Name: _____ Date: _____

An inference is a reasonable guess based on information. Making an inference is sometimes called “reading between the lines,” because the inference is not stated *directly* in the information you have. The information *leads you* to the inference.

| Evidence | My Inference |
|---|--|
| “Fortunato had hurt me a thousand times . . .” | It seems like the narrator has suffered at the hands of Fortunato many times. He says he suffered a “thousand” times. I infer that he is so angry, he will do something to Fortunato to get back at him. |
| “I promised myself that I would make him pay for this . . .” | Montresor is determined to get back at Fortunato, and he’s willing to do anything to make him “pay.” I infer that something will happen to Montresor, too. He might make a mistake in getting revenge and it could come back on him. |
| “You, must not suppose, however, that I spoke of this to anyone.” | He says he didn’t speak of this to anyone. I don’t know if I believe him. If he wants revenge that bad, he might brag to people who he’s doing. I infer he will not be able to keep quiet. |

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The Cask of Amontillado

By Edgar Allan Poe

Fortunato had hurt me a thousand times and I had suffered quietly. But then I learned that he had laughed at my proud name, Montresor, the name of an old and honored family. I promised myself that I would make him pay for this - that I would have revenge. You, must not suppose, however, that I spoke of this to anyone. I would make him pay, yes; but I would act with only the greatest care.

https://americanenglish.state.gov/files/ae/resource_files/the_cask_of_amontillado.pdf