Breaking Down the Story Steps

**Directions:** For each of the nine points on the Storytelling Arc below, summarize the plot point and give one line of text from that part of the story. If you don’t have enough room to write on this sheet, feel free to number your answers and write **Climax**

them on the back.

**Exposition**

**Conflict Introduced**

**Rising Action**

**Resolution**

**Falling Action**

**~~1~~**

**2**

**3**

**4**

**5**

**6**

**8**

**7**

**~~9~~**

# Breaking Down the Story Steps KEY

**Rising Action**

**Falling Action**

**Directions:** For each of the nine points on the Storytelling Arc below, summarize the plot point and give one line of text from that part of the story. If you don’t have

**Storytelling Arc**

## #6

**Summary:** Montresor attacks, locks

enough room to write on this sheet, feel free to number your answers and write **Climax** Fortunato in chains, and seals him up inside

them on the back.

For this sample, I used Edgar Allan Poe’s classic tale of terror, “The Cask of Amontillado.”

## #1

**Summary:** At the beginning of the story, Montresor is a bitter man who wants revenge against an associate of his named Fortunato. **Text:** “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.”

## ~~1~~ 2 Exposition

**#4 Summary:**

Montresor pretends to be concerned for Fortunato’s health and feigns that they should turn back and leave the catacombs, knowing Fortunato will insist they move forward. **Text:** “We will go back. You will be ill, and I cannot be responsible.”

**3**

a wall.

**6 Text:** “A moment more and I had him fettered

**#5** to the granite.”

**Summary:** Montresor

offers Fortunato another **#7**

drink because he secretly **Summary:** Montresor wants to keep his victim

intoxicated. stabs Fortunato with his

**Text:** “A draught of this sword and drops a flame Medoc will defend us in the space, just to make

from the damps.” **5 7** sure that Fortunato will die

there.

**Text:** “I placed my hand upon the solid fabric of catacombs, and felt satisfied.”

**4 #8Summary:** Montresor

finishes the wall, confident **8 ~~9~~** that the job is done. **Resolution**

**Text:** “I forced the last stone into its position; I plastered it up.”

### #3

**#9**

**Summary:** Montresor shakes hands

**Summary:** Fifty years have with Fortunato and tells about the rare passed and now Montresor is Amontillado he has purchased. telling the tale. Apparently, he

**Text:** “But I have received a pipe of what got away with the crime. passes for Amontillado, and I have my

**Text:** “For the half of a century, doubts...You were not to be found, and I no mortal has disturbed [the was fearful of losing a bargain.” wall of bones].”

### #2

**Summary:** Montresor crosses paths with Fortunato and the opportunity arises to spring his trap.

**Conflict Introduced Text:** “It was about dusk, one evening during the supreme madness of the carnival season, that I encountered by friend.” Oh, the irony of “friend” here.

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