

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Per \_\_\_\_\_

**Annotating Text—Paragraphs 12-18: for this activity, respond to the questions.**

**Paragraph 12**

If still you think me mad, you will think so no longer when I describe the wise precautions I took for the concealment of the body. The night waned, and I worked hastily, but in silence. First of all I dismembered the corpse. I cut off the head and the arms and the legs.

1. Provide at least 2 **motifs** from paragraph 12 : \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

**Paragraph 13**

I then took up three planks from the flooring of the chamber, and deposited all between the scantlings. I then replaced the boards so cleverly, so cunningly, that no human eye—not even his—could have detected anything wrong. There was nothing to wash out—no stain of any kind—no blood-spot whatever. I had been too wary for that. A tub had caught all—ha! ha!

2. Identify **parallel structure** used in paragraph 13: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Why do you suppose the narrator laughs? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Paragraph 14**

When I had made an end of these labors, it was four o'clock—still dark as midnight. As the bell sounded the hour, there came a knocking at the street door. I went down to open it with a light heart,—for what had I now to fear? There entered three men, who introduced themselves, with perfect suavity, as officers of the police. A shriek had been heard by a neighbour during the night; suspicion of foul play had been aroused; information had been lodged at the police office, and they (the officers) had been deputed to search the premises.

4. Identify a **motif** used in this paragraph. \_\_\_\_\_

**Paragraph 15**

I smiled,—for what had I to fear? I bade the gentlemen welcome. The shriek, I said, was my own in a dream. The old man, I mentioned, was absent in the country. I took my visitors all over the house. I bade them search—search well. I led them, at length, to his chamber. I showed them his treasures, secure, undisturbed. In the enthusiasm of my confidence, I brought chairs into the room, and desired them here to rest from their fatigues, while I myself, in the wild audacity of my perfect triumph, placed my own seat upon the very spot beneath which reposed the corpse of the victim.

5. Why did the narrator invite the police **into the home** especially at 4:00 am? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Was the narrator being over-confident? Yes or No

**Paragraph 16**

The officers were satisfied. My manner had convinced them. I was singularly at ease. They sat, and while I answered cheerily, they chatted of familiar things. But, ere long, I felt myself getting pale and wished them gone. My head ached, and I fancied a ringing in my ears: but still they sat and still chatted. The ringing became more distinct:—It continued and became more distinct: I talked more freely to get rid of the feeling: but it continued and gained definiteness—until, at length, I found that the noise was not within my ears.

8. How might the narrator be displaying over-confidence? \_\_\_\_\_

9. Why was the narrator becoming ill? \_\_\_\_\_

**Paragraph 17**

No doubt I now grew very pale;—but I talked more fluently, and with a heightened voice. Yet the sound increased—and what could I do? It was a low, dull, quick sound—much such a sound as a watch makes when enveloped in cotton. I gasped for breath—and yet the officers heard it not. I talked more quickly—more vehemently; but the noise steadily increased. I arose and argued about trifles, in a high key and with violent gesticulations; but the noise steadily increased. Why would they not be gone? I paced the floor to and fro with heavy strides, as if excited to fury by the observations of the men—but the noise steadily increased. Oh God! what could I do? I foamed—I raved—I swore! I swung the chair upon which I had been sitting, and grated it upon the boards, but the noise arose over all and continually increased. It grew louder—louder—louder! And still the men chatted pleasantly, and smiled. Was it possible they heard not? Almighty God!—no, no! They heard!—they suspected!—they knew!—they were making a mockery of my horror!—this I thought, and this I think. But anything was better than this agony! Anything was more tolerable than this derision! I could bear those hypocritical smiles no longer! I felt that I must scream or die! and now—again!—hark! louder! louder! louder! louder!

10. In the paragraph it describes the sound as a watch enveloped in cotton...what else might this same image refer to? \_\_\_\_\_

11. List three changes that the narrator describes occur to him in this paragraph.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Paragraph 18**

“Villains!” I shrieked, “dissemble no more! I admit the deed!—tear up the planks! *here, here!—It is the beating of his hideous heart!*”

12. What literary device is used with the final italicized words? \_\_\_\_\_

13. What type of irony is apparent in the ending of the story? \_\_\_\_\_