The Masque of the Red Death

Reading #1
• Highlight any words that describe what the “Red Death” does to people
• Write in the margins next to this paragraph what the Red Death is, and how long it took to kill someone.
THE “Red Death” had long devastated the country. No pestilence had ever been so fatal, or so hideous. Blood was its Avator and its seal — the redness and the horror of blood. There were sharp pains, and sudden dizziness, and then profuse bleeding at the pores, with dissolution. The scarlet stains upon the body and especially upon the face of the victim, were the pest ban which shut him out from the aid and from the sympathy of his fellow-men. And the whole seizure, progress and termination of the disease, were the incidents of half an hour.
• Highlight any words that describe the castle
• Write in the margins why the castle was this way
This was an extensive and magnificent structure, the creation of the prince's own eccentric yet august taste. A strong and lofty wall girdled it in. This wall had gates of iron. The courtiers, having entered, brought furnaces and massy hammers and welded the bolts. They resolved to leave means neither of ingress or egress to the sudden impulses of despair or of frenzy from within. The abbey was amply provisioned. With such precautions the courtiers might bid defiance to contagion. The external world could take care of itself.
• Highlight the colors of each of the 7 rooms
• Write in the margins which direction the rooms started in, and where the final room was
• Highlight why nobody wants to go in the black room
The rooms started in the east and ended in the west of the suite of rooms.

- But in the western or black chamber the effect of the fire-light that streamed upon the dark hangings through the blood-tinted panes, was ghastly in the extreme, and produced so wild a look upon the countenances of those who entered, that there were few of the company bold enough to set foot within its precincts at all.
• Highlight what item was in the black room
• Write in the margins what happens every hour; highlight any details that support your response
• Any guesses what it might represent?
• Highlight any descriptions of the person who arrives at midnight
• Write in the margins what sort of reaction this person evokes in the other partiers
• What did this person come dressed as? Highlight any details that support your response, and write your answer in the margins.
• Write in the margins what Prince Prospero’s reaction was to this person, and highlight any details that support your response
Write in the margins what happened to Prince Prospero; highlight any details that support your response.
• Write in the margin who was underneath the mask, and highlight any details that support your response
• Write in the margins what happened to everybody in the castle, and highlight any details that support your response
Use complete sentences that restate the question

1. How does Prince Prospero deal with the problem of the Red Death?
2. What does Prospero do after five to six months in the abbey?
3. Describe the seven rooms at the masquerade. How does the last room differ from the rest?
4. What stands against the western wall of the last chamber? What might this foreshadow?
5. What happens when the ebony clock strikes each hour? Why?
6. Describe the new visitor. What about him upsets the guests?
7. How does Prospero react upon seeing the new guest? What happens when he reaches the black, western-most room?
8. What do the partygoers do once the prince falls to his death?
9. Who is the strange party guest?