10th Grade/AICE Summer Reading 2025-2026

Directions: Please read **"The Masque of the Red Death"** by Edgar Allan Poe. After reading the short story, complete question #1, #2, and #3. Make sure to answer each question fully, using textual evidence to support your ideas (at least 5-7 sentences per question). Then read the additional related texts linked below and answer the questions that follow. Using Times New Roman (12 point double-spaced) font, save all of your responses as a Google Doc and be ready to share and discuss during the first week of school.

Feel free to email Mrs. Caro at **meredith.caro@palmbeachschools.org** if you have any questions.

Question 1: Identify a theme addressed in the story and explain the significance of the theme throughout the story. Please make sure to answer the question fully and use textual evidence to support your thinking.

Question 2: What is the role of the main character and how does the main character contribute to the theme you identified in question one? Please make sure to answer the question fully and use textual evidence to support your thinking.

Question 3: What unique language features (figurative language, word choice, tone etc.) does the author use? Explain how these language features contribute to the text.

Now that you have read **"The Masque of the Red Death,"** please read the next two attachments and complete the comparison questions that follow.

"Do Not Go Gently Into That Good Night"- Compare and contrast the ways Edgar Allan Poe and Dylan Thomas explore the themes of mortality in their works.

"The Black Death"- The bubonic plague, commonly referred to as the Black Death, is a devastating disease that is believed to have killed around 50% of Europe's population in the 14th century. In this informational text, Margaret Gushue further discusses the ways in which the plague impacted Europe. Do you think that Edgar

Allan Poe's "Red Death" is related to the Black Death? Why or why not? How do both texts explore how diseases spread and the plight of those who suffer?