**“The Masque of the Red Death” by Edgar Allan Poe (pg. 82)**

**Directions: Fill in the chart as you read the story. The first column should identify the literal meaning of the identified person or object, while the last column should explain its symbolic meaning. Numbers 9, 10, and 11 may be answered after the story.**

**Object/Person Literal Meaning Symbolic Meaning**

1. Masque:
2. courtiers:
3. blue room:
4. black room:
5. setting sun:
6. clock:
7. “dreams”
8. Red Death:
9. What could be the significance of seven rooms? Why seven? Do the colors seem to be significant?
10. Why do you think Poe named the protagonist Prospero? What image of the aristocracy is Poe depicting? Why?
11. Identify three possible themes for this story. Write each as a sentence, and then provide some textual evidence that helped you determine this theme. ( Look at your selected annotations for examples/page #).

Theme one:

Theme two:

Theme three:

1. Compare and contrast the film version with the text. How does Poe’s description add to the **suspense** of the plot? To the **gothic atmosphere** of the setting?
2. What do you see as **ironic** in this story? Why?