

Answer the following questions with a few well-developed paragraphs.

1. Explain how each of the following Gothic elements appears in “The Fall of the House of Usher.”
 - a. **Setting:** The story takes place in an old dwelling (possibly a castle) that contains secret passages, trap doors, secret rooms or staircases, and possibly ruined sections.
 - b. **Mystery and Suspense:** Often the plot itself is built around a mystery, such as unknown parentage, a disappearance, or some other inexplicable event.
 - c. **Omens, Portents, Visions:** A character may have a disturbing dream vision, or some phenomenon may be seen as a portent of coming events.
 - d. **Supernatural Events:** Dramatic, amazing, supernatural events occur.
 - e. **Overwrought Emotion:** The characters are often overcome by anger, sorrow, surprise, and especially, terror. Characters suffer from a feeling of impending doom.
 - f. **Women in Distress:** A woman is tormented by a tyrannical male, who abuses his power over her.
 - g. **Metonymy:** Metonymy is when the weather reflects the events of the story.

2. Make an argument for one of the following theories concerning the ending of the story. Back it up using examples from the story. Remember to explain why the House of Usher literally fell apart and why Roderick died as soon as his body hit the floor.
 - a. Madeline is actually a figment of Roderick’s imagination.
 - b. Madeline is a ghost returned from the grave.
 - c. Madeline is a flesh-and-blood woman, who had freed herself from being buried alive.
 - d. Create your own theory for what transpired.