

Academy English 1 - 2  
Summer Reading 2019  
Instructor: Mrs. Kahn [ekahn@tuhsd.k12.az.us](mailto:ekahn@tuhsd.k12.az.us)

Please read the unabridged novel listed below. (Yes, it is over 1200 pages.)

***The Count of Monte Cristo***  
**By Alexandre Dumas**

(I use the Penguin edition of *The Count of Monte Cristo*. Any edition you use is fine, but note that the translations may differ slightly, names of chapters might differ, but the main plot line remains the same.)

*The Count of Monte Cristo* Summer Reading Questions

Please answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper. Your responses should be **typed** and **at least 100 words in length for each** question, and **contain supporting evidence and detail from the novel**. (NOTE: chapters 6, 12, 15 require more than one response, in that case, each response must be at least 100 words in length.) Please make sure that you answer/address all parts of the question. You will also be asked to upload your questions into Canvas the first week of school, so be prepared by keeping an electronic copy of your answers.

**Hard copy due: Aug. 5, 2019.**

**1. The Betrothal**

In this chapter Dantès questions how easily he has obtained happiness. In which Danglars replies, " ...It seems to me, on the contrary, that everything is working out as you would wish." Dantès retorts, "That is precisely what terrifies me, ...I cannot think that man in meant to find happiness so easily! Happiness is like one of those palaces on an enchanted island, its gates guarded by dragons. One must fight to gain it; and in truth, I do not know what I have done to deserve the good fortune of becoming Mercédès' husband."

Do you agree with Dantès' philosophy about happiness? Should happiness be something that one must work hard to gain?

**2. The Interrogation**

While Villefort interrogates Dantès, Dantès believes that the "requests of a dying man are sacred and to a sailor the wishes of a superior officer are orders which must be carried out." Is Dantès honorable for following this tenet, or just plain stupid for delivering Captain Leclère's letters which incriminate him as a Bonapartist agent?

**3. Chapters: The Italian Scholar, The Abbé's Cell, and The Treasure**

Explain the relationship between Faria and Dantès. Does it seem father/son, teacher/student, etc.? Do you find their relationship believable? Comment on the trust they have between each other.

#### 4. **September the Fifth**

Is Morrell deserving of the change in his fortune; going from almost bankrupt to being wealthy again with a decent reputation? Explain why or why not.

#### 5. **The Roman Bandits**

Summarize the subplot of Luigi Vampa and Cucumetto.

#### 6. **La Mazzolata**

A. The Count of Monte Cristo speaks of revenge in this chapter. Analyze his philosophy on revenge. [Find an example or quote to support your comments.](#)

AND

B. What is the Count of Monte Cristo's observation about humanity in this chapter. Use the following quote as guidance for your response.

"...But, man, man whom God made in His image, man to whom God gave this first, this sole, this supreme law, that he should love his neighbor, man to whom God gave a voice to express his thoughts-what is man's first cry when he learns that his neighbor is saved? A curse. All honour to man, the masterpiece of nature, the lord of creation!"

#### 7. **Chapters: The Catacombs of San Sebastian and The Rendez-vous**

What do you think of Albert de Morcerf's character after reading these two chapters? Is he a likeable character? [Find a quote\(s\) anywhere in these two chapters to support your view of him.](#)

#### 8. **The Introduction**

The Count of Monte Cristo meets Mercédès de Morcerf. What did you think of the reunion? Is it what you thought or hoped it would be?

#### 9. **Haydée**

In this short chapter, the reader becomes very suspicious about the origins of Haydée. Who do you think her father is and why the secrecy? How will this impact the plot of the story?

## 10. **The Crown Prosecutor's Office**

We have seen what Villefort is capable of in the beginning of this novel. In this chapter the reader sees that Villefort recognized where the Count of Monte Cristo lied by saying he found the box of bones of a baby while digging under the tree in the garden. Analyze the complex character of Villefort and discuss how you think he will handle this issue.

## 11. **The Promise**

Valentine Villefort is arranged to be married to Franz d'Epinay. Valentine, however, is in love with Maximilien Morrel. Whose plight did you seem to side with more, Valentine or Morrel? Explain why.

## 12. **Chapters: Night and Departure**

A. Were you surprised by the exchange between the Count of Monte Cristo and Mercédès? Discuss the comments made by each of the two characters and their actions at telling the truth and finding out the truth and use examples to support your opinions.

AND

B. Compare/contrast the two exchanges between the Count of Monte Cristo and Mercédès. Why does Mercédès blame herself for all of her misfortunes? Why can't Edmond and Mercédès be reunited?

## 13. **The Past**

Comment on Edmond's change. Why must he visit the prison to "drive away his doubts"? If he has doubts what might this say about his quest for revenge? What does this say about his character?

## 14. **October the Fifth**

Do you agree with Edmond in his letter to Maximilien, "Only someone who has suffered the deepest misfortune is capable of experiencing the heights of felicity. ....you must needs have wished to die, to know how good it is to live." Explain why you agree or disagree with Edmond's philosophy.

## 15. **The End: answer all three parts in 100 words or more.**

A. How satisfied were you with the ending of the novel?

B. Did you feel that Edmond successfully sought revenge on all of his enemies? Explain.

C. What point was Dumas trying to make? What is the theme?