

# THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

# LIVING LITERATURE SERIES

ALEXANDRE DUMAS

A PERMA-BOUND PRODUCTION

TEACHER'S GUIDE

GUIDE WRITTEN BY MARY ELLEN SNODGRASS

## SYNOPSIS

Filled with the satisfaction of a job well done and the anticipation of his marriage to Mercédès, twenty-year-old Edmond Dantés arrives in Marseilles on February 24, 1815, aboard the *Pharaon*. To his employer, Monsieur Morrel, he reports a small side trip to Elba, where, at the request of Captain Leclère, he delivered a package. Because Edmond so ably replaced the Captain after his untimely death from brain fever and brought the ship safely home, Morrel considers naming Edmond the *Pharaon's* captain.

Edmond's enemies—Danglars, the jealous purser, and Fernand, Edmond's rival for Mercédès—conspire to have Edmond arrested at his betrothal feast by accusing him of complicity with the Bonapartists. Caderousse, the local tailor, knows of the plot but does nothing to stop it. At first, the deputy prosecutor, Monsieur de Villefort, realizes Edmond's innocence of political intrigue and promises that Edmond will be exonerated. However, at Edmond's mention of the name Noirtiers, who is Villefort's father and an ardent Bonapartist, Villefort alters his plan and sends Edmond to the Chateau d'If to conceal his father's role in anti-royalist political activities.

Numb with grief and anger, Edmond attempts to starve himself to death. Just as his strength is almost depleted, he meets the Abbé Faria, an elderly fellow prisoner who accidentally tunnels into Edmond's cell. Through logic and deduction, the two men discover the culprits in Edmond's false imprisonment. The Abbé Faria, whom the guards consider a harmless madman, gives Edmond hope by sharing his homemade matches, candle, knife, digging tools, ropeladder, and book and by teaching him foreign languages, mathematics, physics, and history. Just before the holy man's death, he reveals the location of a fabulous treasure, which Caesar Spada buried on the island of Monte Cristo in 1498 to protect it from confiscation by Pope Alexander VI. Twisted with pain, the Abbé dies.

Jailers enshroud the Abbé's corpse and wait for the tide. Edmond hides the old man's body, sews himself into the burlap wrapping which covered his friend, and is thrown into the sea—the burial ground of the Chateau d'If. He quickly cuts himself free and swims toward land. Saved by pirates aboard the *Jeune-Amélie* on February 28, 1829, Edmond spends three months piloting their craft before discovering the treasure of Monte Cristo. The gold and jewels exceed the priest's description: Edmond is fabulously rich and empowered by wealth to avenge himself on the conspirators who robbed him of fourteen years of his life.

From Caderousse, who is now an innkeeper, Edmond,

disguised as a priest, learns that Mercédès has married Fernand, now known as the Count of Morcerf and a renowned military leader; that Edmond's father died of hunger; that Danglars has become a millionaire from his dealings with a Spanish bank; and that Monsieur Morrel is suffering financial ruin as a result of losing five ships. Edmond hastens to aid his former employer, who is stopped in the act of committing suicide. The old man and his family, Julie and Maximilien, remain loyal to Edmond, whom they know only as Sinbad the Sailor.

Disguised as the Count of Monte Cristo and at times as Lord Wilmore, an agent of the English firm of Thomson and French, or the Abbé Busoni, Edmond plots to entrap his enemies by means of their own greed and dishonesty. Befriending Fernand and Mercédès's son Albert, whom he saves from the Roman bandit and kidnapper, Luigi Vampa, Edmond works his way into Paris society and takes a house in Auteuil. He utilizes mystery, sophistication, and wealth as a means of impressing Danglars and lures the unsuspecting banker into unwise speculation and eventual bankruptcy.

With the assistance of Benedetto, a resourceful brigand who is also known as the Count of Cavalcanti, Edmond reveals Villefort's attempted murder of an illegitimate son borne by Villefort's former mistress, Madame Danglars. The child, whom Villefort buried alive on the night of its birth, was rescued by Edmond's servant, Bertuccio. When Villefort attempts to prosecute Benedetto for his part in a robbery, Benedetto identifies himself as the son and intended victim of Villefort. The dramatic revelation of Villefort's unbridled ambition, however, results in Madame Villefort's poisoning of Edouard, Villefort's innocent son. At this point, Edmond begins to question his vengeful mission.

His last victim, like Villefort, suffers public humiliation when his dramatic military career is exposed. Fernand used the friendship of Ali Pasha to gain control in Turkey. After the pasha's death, Fernand sold the pasha's wife and daughter to El Kobbir, a slave merchant. The Count's mistress, Haydée, testifies in a hearing that she is the daughter of Ali Pasha and that the Count of Monte Cristo retrieved her from slavery. Fernand's career and reputation are destroyed; his son and wife abandon him and his wealth, which he accumulated by unscrupulous means. Albert enlists in the military, and his mother departs for the provinces.

Edmond, who reveals his identity and purpose to each victim, regrets the suffering he has inflicted on Albert and Mercedes. He attempts to rectify his error, but it is unable to restore them to happiness by means of his money. In despair he contemplates suicide. He is rescued by

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Maximilien Morrel and Valentine Villefort, Noirtiers's loving granddaughter, who encourage Edmond to seek Haydée's love as a remedy for the corrupting influence of vengeance. Repentant of his god-like intervention in other people's lives, Edmond and Haydée sail away from Marseilles. In his farewell letter, Edmond leaves Maximilien and Valentine a handsome residence as a wedding present. He urges them to be happy and to remember two words of wisdom—wait and hope.

### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Alexandre Dumas (1802-1870) is best known for exciting episodic novels set against the most colorful eras of French history. Born Alexandre Davy de La Pailleterie Dumas at Villers-Cotterêts, France, he was the grandson of a French nobleman and a Negress from Santo Domingo. His father distinguished himself as one of Napoleon's generals but died, leaving the family penniless. Alexandre's education suffered, yet his love of history books led to an extensive knowledge of the heroic deeds, plots, and cruelties of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. In 1827 he was impressed by a Shakespearean troupe and came to love the *drame romantique* of the French stage.

His first literary success, the play *Henry III et Sa Cour* (1829), found instant success with audiences at the Comedie Française. Abandoning his job as a legal clerk, Dumas wrote additional plays, historical novels, and travelogues. Drawing on a story about a shoemaker whose friends have him arrested on the eve of his wedding, Dumas expands the original tale, in which the wronged man returns seven years later to murder his former friends. Dumas utilized the research of Auguste Maquet and P. A. Fiorentino, his literary collaborators, to fill the novel with vivid detail, including piracy, distant islands, buried treasure, dueling, poison, intrigue, and the background of the Napoleonic era. The resulting historical romance, *The Count of Monte Cristo*, was published in two volumes in 1846 and dramatized two years later.

Like his characters, Dumas lived extravagantly, participated in the revolution of 1830, and journeyed to Italy to recover from cholera, where he spent large amounts of money on mistresses, friends, and art and in 1860 joined Garibaldi, father of Italian nationalism. He published over thirty volumes on many subjects, including theater, politics, journalism, and travel. Dumas's illegitimate son, the author of *Camille* who is known professionally as Alexandre fils, castigated his father for immorality; yet Dumas père, in imitation of his energetic, resourceful heroes, was undeterred in his strenuous lifestyle. Of imminent death he said, "I shall tell her a story and she will be kind of me."

### CRITIC'S CORNER

Critics have found fault with Dumas's style for its lack of sophistication, loose construction, coincidences, and outrageous exaggerations. Other spokesmen, however, have extolled him. Thackeray called Dumas "Alexander the Great." D. W. Brogan described him as a "great creator of

the vision of France held by foreigners." The creation of *The Three Musketeers* (1843-44), his greatest achievement, immortalized Dumas as the chronicler of the age of cavaliers and has known countless recreations in film, stage, and television productions. Perhaps Bernard Shaw's declaration says it best; Dumas, like Mozart was "a summit of art. Nobody ever could, or did, or will improve on Dumas's romances and plays."

### GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To discuss the corrupting effect of vengeance
2. To explain the importance of hope, love, forgiveness, pity, gratitude, and charity in the novel
3. To describe how innocent people can be caught up in political change
4. To analyze the effect of wealth in human life
5. To explain the reasons for which marriages were arranged in the first half of the nineteenth century
6. To describe the situations which bring honor or shame to a family
7. To note the effect of sudden misfortunes, such as disease or bankruptcy, upon individual characters
8. To justify a belief in love as a healing influence

### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To contrast the influence of Mercédès and Haydée in Edmond's life
2. To contrast the religious influence of Abbé Faria and Abbé Busoni in other character's lives
3. To describe the care with which Edmond creates dramatic scenes for the purpose of carrying out his plans, such as the runaway horses, the recreation of the Pharaon, the escape from Chateau d'If and the use of burcine
4. To analyze the final courtroom scene and its effect upon major characters
5. To contrast Albert and Maximilien in terms of loyalty
6. To determine the importance of Edmond's return to Chateau d'If
7. To evaluate Edmond's use of lawless people, such as Luigi Vampa, Peppino, Benedetto, and Jacopo
8. To trace the stages in Edmond's deterioration after his imprisonment
9. To observe Edmond's use of the knowledge he gains from Abbé Faria

### MEANING STUDY

Below are words, phrases, sentences, or thought units

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that have a particular meaning in the story. Explain the meaning each has in this book. Page numbers are given so that you can note the context from which the item is taken.

1. signed "Sinbad the Sailor." (p. 183)  
(A merchant of Baghdad in *The Arabian Nights*, a collection of ancient Arabian, Indian, and Persian tales, Sinbad makes seven great voyages through the Indian Ocean, discovers a roc's egg, kills a monster, and amasses a vast treasure of diamonds and ivory.)
2. Brucine, (p. 187)  
(a bitter white alkaloid found in seeds of an Asiatic tree, the nux vomica. Related to strychnine, brucine has beneficial effects as a heart stimulant, extreme doses lead to excruciating pain and a violent death.)
3. your Eternal City, (p. 111)  
(The Count meets Albert Morcerf in Rome, which is called the Eternal City because it has survived many political and economic changes from ancient times to the present and still maintains its importance as the seat of Catholicism.)
4. the Isle of Elba, (p. 3)  
(Edmond is unaware of the political importance of Elba, a small Italian island in the Tyrrhenian Sea where Napoleon was exiled in 1814 and from which he escaped in 1815, about the time of Edmond's arrest.)
5. Then came Waterloo, (p. 33)  
(Waterloo, a Belgian village near Brussels, was the site of Napoleon's defeat on June 18, 1815, and the end of a long era of bloodshed. In a single day's combat, Wellington, known as the "Iron Duke," gained fame as the force that stopped Napoleon's growing power in Europe. Although Napoleon escaped, he was exiled a second time—to St. Helena—where he died in 1821.)
6. Caesar Borgia, (p. 54)  
(Caesar Borgia (1475-1507), a cunning unscrupulous, opportunistic leader during the Italian Renaissance, was the son of Pope Alexander VI. His profligate life is idealized in Machiavelli's *The Prince*.)
7. 'Non bis in idem,' (p. 178)  
(Edmond's self-assurance rests on his belief that he need not fear madness again because it will not strike "twice in the same place.")
8. I wrote *finis*, (p. 43)  
(Abbé Faria indicates the end of *A Treatise on the Possibility of a General Monarchy in Italy*, which he wrote on seventy-eight strips of cloth with ink made from soot and wine.)
9. the words of the English poet: "Frailty, thy name is woman!" (p. 90)  
(As Caderousse explains the events that have taken

place since Edmond's imprisonment, Edmond, disguised as a priest, murmurs a line from Shakespeare. They are Hamlet's words, which describe his mother, Gertrude. Edmond compares Gertrude's hasty marriage to Claudius with Mercédès's marriage to Fernand only eighteen months after Edmond is put in prison.)

10. in the caves of the little island of Monte Cristo, (p. 59)  
(Caesar Spada describes the repository of a fabulous treasure—a small island in the Tyrrhenian Sea between Corsica and Italy, twenty-five miles from Elba. Only 3.5 square miles, the island rises to 2,116 feet at the center and is uninhabited, although it once served as a penal agricultural colony in the late 1800's.)

## COMPREHENSION STUDY

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages in the book.

### Questions 1-5 Literal Level

1. Why does Villefort change his mind about his wife's guilt?  
(When Villefort discovers that his wife is guilty of the multiple murders in an effort to gain wealth for Edouard, he insists that she either commit suicide or face prosecution. However, after he is discredited at Benedetto's trial, he rushes home, convinced that Héloïse must live in order to raise Edouard. After his own humbling experience, he realizes that "the heart of a mother who loves her child can't be hopelessly bad. She'll repent and no one will ever know she was guilty."  
He envisions his wife's escape from the calumny that soils his own reputation. He hopes for a decent life for Edouard if mother and son flee Paris and begin anew somewhere else. Villefort congratulates and comforts himself: "I'll have done a noble action; that relieves the heart.")
2. What arrangements does Edmond make with the captain of the *Jeune-Amélie*?  
(After Edmond decides to identify himself with the crew of a wrecked vessel in order to escape detection by soldiers from the prison, he dons a cap floating amid the wreckage, waves his hands, and swims toward a "Genoese tartan coming from Marseilles." Rowers pull him aboard a boat and take him to the *Jeune-Amélie*. Edmond introduces himself as an experienced Maltese sailor who knows all Mediterranean ports, and he agrees to work for the same wages that the other sailors receive. Jacopo provides trousers and a shirt, bread and rum. After refreshing himself, Edmond takes over the helm and exhibits his competence.  
When the captain realizes Edmond's value to his

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smuggling operation, he offers Edmond a permanent position. Edmond, dedicated to the prospect of vengeance, agrees to serve him only three months. During a discussion of an important undertaking, the captain chooses the island of Monte Cristo as neutral ground on which to meet another ship and divide a load of "Turkish carpets, cashmere, and cloth from the Levant [eastern Mediterranean coast.]" Edmond is overjoyed at his good fortune.)

3. How does Albert fall into the hands of Luigi Vampa?  
(Lured by a beautiful, flirtatious woman in a carriage during the festival of Corpus Christi, Albert follows her and is kidnapped by Luigi Vampa, an Italian bandit. The Count of Monte Cristo questions Peppino and learns that Vampa used Teresa, Vampa's own mistress, as bait. Disguised as Teresa's coachman, Vampa arranged the daily meetings in the street. As Albert became more interested in Teresa, he agreed to a rendezvous.)

On the steps of San Giacomo Church, Beppo, a man dressed as a peasant girl, escorted Albert to a carriage. Beppo revealed his masculine identity by drawing his pistols. Four more armed men joined Beppo and forced Albert to accompany them to the Catacombs of Saint Sebastian, where Luigi and Teresa awaited.)

4. How does Fernand gain control of Ali Pasha's family and wealth?

(Haydée testifies in court that Colonel Mondego, the "French officer who instructed the troops of my noble father," surrendered the castles of Yanina and negotiated for Ali Pasha's life or death. Employing a forged decree of pardon, he obtained the pasha's ring, murdered Ali Pasha, and sold Haydée and her mother to El Kobbir, a slave merchant. Haydée accentuates her testimony with her mother's accusations of treachery. "Look closely at that man, for it was he who made you a slave, it was he who raised your father's head on the end of a spear, it was he who sold us, it was he who betrayed us!")

5. Why does the Count buy the house at 28 Rue de la Fontaine?

(The Count of Monte Cristo goes to elaborate means to imply that the purchase of a residence in Paris is of little importance to him and will be left up to his valet. In truth Edmond wants ownership of the home of Monsieur de Saint-Méran because it is the site of Villefort's crime. Edmond knows that Villefort, eager to dispose of his illegitimate son, placed the half-strangled newborn infant in a box, carried him down an inside passageway to the garden, and buried him alive.)

When the Count invites Villefort and his former mistress, Madame Danglars, to a dinner party, the awareness of their crime causes distress to Madame Danglars, who faints from the Count's

imaginative description of the bedroom in which the child was born—the only room in the house which has not been redecorated. After Danglars mentions that infanticides are beheaded in France, "Monte Cristo saw that the two persons for whom he had prepared the scene had reached the limit of their strength and he did not wish to push them too far.")

### Questions 6-8 Interpretive Level

6. How does Noirtiers show his love for his devoted granddaughter?

(Imprisoned in a mute, paralyzed body, Noirtiers depends upon Valentine for love and communication. Because she patiently searches the dictionary for the words her grandfather wishes to say, he rewards her by naming her his sole heir. When he learns that Valentine is being forced into marriage with Franz d'Epinau, Noirtiers, as a means of countering the marriage, demands a notary and alters his will so that Valentine will be disinherited.)

Valentine reveals to her grandfather that Maximilien is her choice of husband. Noirtiers continues to influence the decision concerning Valentine's engagement by encouraging her secret meetings with Maximilien and suggesting that he share an apartment with the young lovers. Dumas comments that "it was impressive to see that old man who was a useless burden in appearance, but who had become the sole protector, the only support of two strong young lovers who stood on the threshold of life."

Noirtiers urges Maximilien to abandon plans for an elopement and to trust in the old man's ability to protect Valentine. At the moment when the marriage agreement is being signed, Noirtiers reveals his part in the murder of d'Epinau's father, thus discouraging Franz from his interest in Valentine. When all danger of the arranged marriage has passed, Noirtiers restores Valentine's inheritance.)

7. Why does the Count describe himself as a cosmopolite?

(In his formal meeting with Villefort after he saves Villefort's wife and son, the Count is less than courteous, countering with indifference Villefort's snobbery and pride in his position as public prosecutor. The Count explains that he studies human psychology and needles Villefort by hinting that God has sent the Count as an agent to do His bidding.)

The Count expands the concept of the divine agent by characterizing himself as "neither Italian, French, Hindu, American or Spanish: I am a cosmopolite. I adopt all customs and I speak all languages." He stresses the ominous overtones of his mission by asserting that "I regard no man as my brother." As a representative of God, the Count need fear only distance, time, and death. To conclude his grim picture, the Count describes his

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*meeting with Satan, at which time he bargained his soul in exchange for an opportunity to be "one of the agents of Providence.")*

8. How do both Mercédès and Edmond accept blame for the destruction of their lives?

*(After Fernand's public humiliation, Mercédès prepares to leave Paris. She blames herself for being "weak and cowardly" and claims that, because she denied her love for Edmond, she has brought "misfortune to everyone around me.")*

*Edmond counters with proof of his own weakness—his devotion to vengeance: "I felt myself driven like a cloud of fire descending from heaven to destroy an accursed city. Like an adventurous captain setting out on a perilous expedition, I laid in my provisions, loaded my weapons and prepared every means of attack and defense; I accustomed my body to the most vigorous exercises and my soul to the most violent shocks; I taught my arm to kill, my eyes to watch suffering and my lips to smile at the most terrible sights; from the kind, trusting and forgiving man I had once been, I made my self vindictive, crafty, and cruel, or rather, impassive like deaf and blind Fate itself."*

*Recognizing that he is no longer the Edmond whom she has loved, Mercédès promises to pray for the soul that Edmond has killed—his own. Close to despair, she bids farewell, clinging to a small hope. Although her eyes search the horizon for the ship on which Albert sails, she murmurs "Edmond! Edmond!" as though she still waits for her lover's return.)*

### Questions 9 and 10 Critical Level

9. What saves Edmond from a wretched end?

*(After all vengeance is at an end, Edmond grieves for the innocent victims of his evil acts—Edouard, Albert, and Mercédès. As Edmond, like Maximilien, contemplates suicide, he explains "I'm as weary of life as you are." He finds comfort in restoring Maximilien to his beloved Valentine and pleads, "Tell me again and again that I've made you happy—you can't know how much I need to be certain of that.")*

*At Valentine's insistence Edmond acknowledges his love for Haydée and finds reason to live in her pledge: "I love you as I love my life, as I love my God, because for me you're the finest, the kindest and the greatest man on this earth!" Edmond realizes that God has decreed forgiveness for him. He accepts Haydée's love as a means of forgetting: "One word from you, Haydée, has enlightened me more than twenty years of my slow wisdom. You're all I have left in the world; through you I attach myself to life again; through you I can suffer; through you I can be happy." At this point he ponders, "Have I glimpsed the truth, O God? No matter, whether it be a reward or a punishment, I accept this destiny."*

10. Explain Dumas's purpose in creating this bizarre story of treachery and vengeance.

*(Dumas seems to have multiple purposes in mind. His account of Edmond's intricate plans for vengeance satisfies the human urge for getting even. The vast network of details is also satisfying in that Edmond, fortified by intelligence, the Abbé Faria's teachings, and the endless supply of wealth, seems unable to fail. Dumas, however, redeems the story from a simplistic adventure tale by destroying Edmond's self-confidence with the first major flaw in his plans—Edouard's death.)*

*Dumas reminds the reader that revenge is an unpredictable human emotion which can strike in both directions. As Edmond salves his brooding spirit with a steady output of plots and counterplots against his enemies, he fails to prepare himself for an unforeseen backlash. He brags to Villefort that, as an agent of God, he need fear only time, space, and mortality. He overlooks his link with life—his humanity. Although he believes that he has numbed his heart to human concerns, he recoils from the death of an innocent child: "as though he were afraid the walls of that accursed house might collapse on his head, he hurried out into the street, doubting for the first time that he had a right to do what he had done."*

*Although the climax arrives late in the book, its placement so near the end reminds the reader that Edmond has believed too long in his own infallibility. After damning himself through a lengthy series of cruel acts, he learns too late that only God has the power to punish.)*

### Question 11 Creative Level

11. Compose a letter from Albert in which he reflects on his decision to join the Spahis to escape Fernand's humiliation. Explain his feelings as he accepts an ordinary military life in place of the riches his family had enjoyed. Compose a reply from Mercédès in which she comforts Albert and gives him courage.

### STUDENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. Choose one of the historical figures, places, or events mentioned in the novel and write an oral report. Select from Napoleon Bonaparte, the Girondists, Robespierre, Condé's army, Waterloo, the Roman festival of Corpus Christi, the catacombs, Mithridates, Caesar Borgia, or Louis XII of France.
2. Explain the history, code, and rules of dueling. Give an example of a famous duel, such as Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton, the Duke of Wellington and the Earl of Winchester, General Andrew Jackson and Charles Dickinson, or Major Wright and James Bowie.
3. Make a timeline of the history of piracy on the

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Mediterranean Sea. Note efforts to halt both the black market and slave trade.

4. Make several sketches of the *Pharaon*, including internal views below deck. Label the parts, such as the masts, sails, storage areas, cabin, galley, and sleeping quarters. List the crew that are necessary to operate a merchant vessel, such as the captain, purser, and pilot.
5. Draw a map of the geographical areas mentioned in the novel, such as the islands of Elba, St. Helena, Corsica, Monte Cristo, and Sicily and the cities of Paris, Marseilles, Genoa, Le Havre, Madrid, and Rome. Pinpoint the locations of the most important events, such as the kidnapping and rescue of Albert Morcerf and Edmond's first voyage with Jacopo.
6. Compose a guided tour of the sights of Paris, including the tomb of Napoleon, Notre Dame, the Eiffel Tower, the Tuileries, the Louvre, Sacre Coeur, the Champs Elysees, the Seine, Montmartre, the Opera, and other points of interest.
7. Write a report on various types of poison. Describe the form (liquid, solid, gas), taste, smell, effects, antidote, and source of each.
8. Sketch some costumes which represent the various stages of Mercédès's life, such as her peasant dress, wedding dress, the costume she is wearing when Edmond returns, and the costume she wears as she prepares to leave home with Albert.
9. Draw a treasure map that shows the location of the treasure of Monte Cristo. Use homemade ink and pen and crumpled wrapping paper or strips of cloth.
10. Compose a diary detailing the most important events in Haydée's life. Include her father's death, the slave sale, rescue, life in Paris, her testimony against Fernand, and her devotion to Edmond.

## TEACHING NOTES

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### VOCABULARY TEST

Choose words from the list below to fill the blanks in the following sentences. Place the letter of your response in the blank at left. You will have answers left over when you finish.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Thus, in my opinion, death is perhaps an ordeal, but it is not an \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. For the happy man prayer is only a jumble of words, until the day when sorrow comes to explain to him the \_\_\_\_\_ language by means of which he speaks to God.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. . . . You can talk to your \_\_\_\_\_, Monsieur Danglars, who's just coming out of his cabin.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The \_\_\_\_\_ closed the door and seated himself beside the driver.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. I then became curious to see the living \_\_\_\_\_ at close quarters and watch the comedy he plays. . . by pulling on his strings.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. I think our neighbor must be either a stockbroker who made a very successful speculation or some prince traveling \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. The four soldiers took hold of Dantès, who fell into a kind of \_\_\_\_\_ and followed them without resistance.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. "Where are you taking me?" he asked one of the \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. "My grandfather claims it's a \_\_\_\_\_."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Then he \_\_\_\_\_ waited the customary twenty minutes before leaving.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. "I recognized you long ago as the insolent young \_\_\_\_\_ driving along the Champs Elysées."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Overwhelmed with fatigue and bowed beneath the weight of a single \_\_\_\_\_ thought, Villefort went out to take a walk in the garden.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. I sent my \_\_\_\_\_ on ahead of me and he should have bought me a house and had it furnished by now.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. In the first were shining gold coins. In the second, unpolished gold \_\_\_\_\_ packed in orderly stacks.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. But, instead of humble workers, sailors and soldiers, the guests of this feast were members of the highest \_\_\_\_\_ of Marseilles society.

- |              |               |                   |            |
|--------------|---------------|-------------------|------------|
| A. apathy    | F. fop        | K. ingrate        | P. purser  |
| B. chrysalis | G. gendarmes  | L. Nubian         | Q. stratum |
| C. cicerone  | H. implacable | M. obsequious     | R. sublime |
| D. decòrum   | I. incognito  | N. panacea        | S. usurper |
| E. expiation | J. ingots     | O. phlegmatically | T. valet   |

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### COMPREHENSION TEST A

#### Part I: Character Identification (30 points)

Select the name of a character from the list below which fits each of the following descriptions. Place the letter of your response in the blank provided. You will have answers left over when you finish.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. receives freedom but refuses to leave her master
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. plans to consult his partner about a promotion for Edmond
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. sneaks into Valentine's room to poison her
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. carries on a love affair with Lucien Debray
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. rewards a prison guard for pitying Edmond Dantes and Abbé Faria
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. buries a newborn child in the garden
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. pretends to be Cavalcanti, a wealthy Italian nobleman
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. imprisons both Albert and Danglars
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. becomes Edmond's disciple
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. sells the wife and daughter of Ali Pasha
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. thanks Edmond for sparing her son
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. teaches Edmond math, Greek, and Italian
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. one of Edmond's aliases
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. confesses to the murder of d'Epinay's father
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. attacks the Abbé Busoni with a knife

- |                  |                     |                    |
|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| A. Abbé Faria    | H. Fernand Mondego  | O. Maxmillien      |
| B. Benedetto     | I. Haydée           | P. Mercédès        |
| C. Bertuccio     | J. Leclère          | Q. Monsieur Morrel |
| D. Caderousse    | K. Lord Wilmore     | R. Noirtiers       |
| E. d'Avrigny     | L. Luigi Vampa      | S. Peppino         |
| F. Edmond Dantes | M. Madame Danglars  | T. Saint-Méran     |
| G. Eugenie       | N. Madame Villefort | U. Villefort       |

#### Part II: Fill-In (20 points)

Complete each line with a word or phrase from the novel.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. \_\_\_\_\_ is terrified of the bedroom in his employer's new house.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Edmond has a duplicate of the \_\_\_\_\_ built for Monsieur Morrel.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. On the strips of cloth, Edmond reads: "Thou shalt tear out the teeth of the \_\_\_\_\_ and trample the lions underfoot, thus saith the Lord."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. On the day of the duel, \_\_\_\_\_ serves as Edmond's second.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Edmond orders Albert out of his \_\_\_\_\_ at the opera.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Abbé Faria considers \_\_\_\_\_ as his son and heir.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. \_\_\_\_\_ helps Edmond aboard the *Jeune-Amélie*.





## THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

### COMPREHENSION TEST B

#### Part I: Matching (30 points)

Match the following quotations with the speaker. Some of the answers will be used more than once and some not at all.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. . . . if someone else in your house falls ill, or if you yourself should be stricken, don't call me, for I will never come here again.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. It won't do you any good to say he's not here—I'll find him if I have to search till the Last Judgment.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. . . . If you wish to discover the guilty person, first find out to whom the crime might be useful.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. My darling, . . . the count just told us that all human wisdom was contained in these two words: Wait and hope.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. I've accomplished my aim: the Danglars' domestic peace is now in my hands . . .
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. I wish to have these horses harnessed to my carriage and waiting for me then.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. I think the doctors called his illness gastric enteritis; those who knew him said he died of sorrow.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. I have no more ships, so I no longer need sailors.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. . . . except for you, there's no longer any relative in the world who loves me.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Listen to me, mother, and try not to be too upset: I enlisted in the Spahis [Turkish cavalry] yesterday.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. What good did it do for me to mourn your loss eternally in my heart?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. . . . there hasn't been one of your lovers, from Monsieur de Villefort down to Monsieur Debray, who hasn't trembled before me.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. That's not my name yet . . . they say it brings bad luck to call a girl by the name of her fiancé before she's married . . .
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. I am a Christian, but, may God forgive me, I have always dreamed of avenging the death of my illustrious father.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. All I can do now is to wish you a life so calm, happy and full that there will be no place in your memory for me. Good-bye, Valentine.

- |               |               |              |               |              |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| A. Abbé Faria | D. Bertuccio  | G. d'Avrigny | J. Haydée     | M. Morrel    |
| B. Albert     | E. Caderousse | H. Edmond    | K. Maximilien | N. Valentine |
| C. Benedetto  | F. Danglars   | I. Eugenie   | L. Mercédès   | O. Villefort |

#### Part II: Multiple Choice (20 points)

Choose the answer which completes each of the following statements. Place the letter of your response in the blank provided at left.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Edmond asks Valentine to (a) prove that Noirtiers killed d'Épinay's father (b) allow Madame Danglars to plot to make Edouard rich (c) let Haydée be her sister (d) hide in the passageway between the library and her room.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. During her escape from Paris, Eugenie (a) follows Benedetto to a country inn (b) assumes the identity of Léon d'Armilly (c) lies to the gendarmes about her part in the robbery (d) rolls the diamonds in her neck scarf.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Julie and her brother are eternally grateful that (a) Caderousse tried to save Edmond's father from starvation (b) Maximilien overheard the cause of Saint-Méran's death (c) their father was saved from suicide at the last minute (d) the Count left them his chateau at Tréport.

## THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The Count becomes a close friend of Albert Morcerf by (a) lending him a carriage during the festival (b) saving him from Ali Pasha and the kidnappers (c) pouring a single red drop into his mouth and saving his life (d) advancing him enough credit to save his father's business.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The company of Morrel and Son are proud of the fact that (a) they have always paid their bills (b) the *Pharaon* has never taken part in the slave trade (c) Sinbad once sailed aboard the *Pharaon* (d) Thomson and French have offered to buy all their ships.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Noirtier, a man who once "laughed at the guillotine," (a) marries into a wealthy family named Saint-Méran (b) promises to burn the letter which Edmond brought from Elba (c) kneels at Valentine's tomb and prays for her soul (d) becomes a "mute, frozen corpse" after suffering a stroke.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Edmond takes command of the *Pharaon* after (a) Danglars loses his job as purser (b) Leclère dies of brain fever (c) the cargo is discharged at Civitavecchia (d) Morrel meets the crew at Smyrna.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Before sending his slave into Paris, the Count warns her to (a) keep her father's name a secret (b) beware of his new team of horses (c) avoid the office of Thomson and French (d) speak only Arabic and keep her face veiled.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. After his escape from Chateau d'If, Edmond (a) conceals the fact that he has been a sailor (b) is left to die on the island of Monte Cristo (c) pretends to speak only Greek (d) appears sad but intelligent and self-confident.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. After Fernand's good name is ruined, (a) he retreats into madness (b) Mercédès and Albert give their fortune to the hospitals (c) he disguises himself in a sailor's blouse and hat (d) Edmond challenges him to a duel.

### Part III: Completion (20 points)

Fill in the blanks by matching objects from the list below with each statement. You will have answers left over when you finish.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The dead captain is sewn up in his \_\_\_\_\_ before being buried at sea.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Just before Peppino is to be executed, a penitent reads a \_\_\_\_\_ from the Pope.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Noirtiers indicates that he must see a \_\_\_\_\_ about his will.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Barrois dies unexpectedly from drinking poisoned \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Edmond looks for an inscription on the wall which says: "O God, preserve my \_\_\_\_\_."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The priest rewards Gaspard Caderousse with a \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Abbé Faria makes a \_\_\_\_\_ out of unraveled sheets.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The \_\_\_\_\_ reminds the Count of "genii, sylphs or gnomes; in short, of occult powers."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. After her escape is foiled, Eugenie prepares to enter a \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. As he bends over a brook, Danglars realizes that his \_\_\_\_\_ is white.

- |              |             |                |
|--------------|-------------|----------------|
| A. brucine   | G. hair     | M. rope ladder |
| B. chocolate | H. hammock  | N. sack        |
| C. convent   | I. lemonade | O. scarf       |
| D. diamond   | J. memory   | P. telegraph   |
| E. fiancée   | K. notary   | Q. university  |
| F. gendarme  | L. pardon   | R. will        |

### Part IV: Essay Questions (30 points)

1. How does Edmond help Maximilien resist the urge to commit suicide?
2. For what individual reasons do Fernand, Danglars, Villefort, and Caderousse bring misery to Edmond?

**THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO**

**VOCABULARY TEST ANSWER KEY**

- |      |       |       |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. E | 6. I  | 11. F |
| 2. R | 7. A  | 12. H |
| 3. P | 8. G  | 13. T |
| 4. C | 9. N  | 14. J |
| 5. B | 10. O | 15. Q |

**COMPREHENSION TEST A ANSWER KEY**

Part I: Character Identification (30 points)

- |      |       |       |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. I | 6. U  | 11. P |
| 2. Q | 7. B  | 12. A |
| 3. N | 8. L  | 13. K |
| 4. M | 9. O  | 14. R |
| 5. F | 10. H | 15. D |

Part II: Fill-in (20 points)

- |                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Bertuccio      | 6. Edmond             |
| 2. <i>Pharaon</i> | 7. Jacopo             |
| 3. dragon         | 8. Auteuil            |
| 4. Maximilien     | 9. Valentine          |
| 5. box            | 10. Sinbad the Sailor |

Part III: True/False (20 points)

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. T | 6. F  |
| 2. T | 7. F  |
| 3. F | 8. T  |
| 4. T | 9. F  |
| 5. F | 10. T |

**COMPREHENSION TEST B ANSWER KEY**

Part I: Matching (30 points)

- |      |       |       |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. G | 6. H  | 11. L |
| 2. O | 7. E  | 12. F |
| 3. A | 8. M  | 13. L |
| 4. N | 9. N  | 14. J |
| 5. H | 10. B | 15. K |

Part II: Multiple Choice (20 points)

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. C | 6. D  |
| 2. B | 7. B  |
| 3. C | 8. A  |
| 4. A | 9. D  |
| 5. A | 10. B |

Part III: Completion (20 points)

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. H | 6. D  |
| 2. L | 7. M  |
| 3. K | 8. P  |
| 4. I | 9. C  |
| 5. J | 10. G |



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