

Three Musketeers

Alexandre Dumas

Teacher's Guide

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Synopsis by Chapters

The Three Gifts of Monsieur d'Artagnan the Elder

Like Don Quixote on Rocinante, 18-year-old d'Artagnan departs from his father in Meung, Gascony, with a 13-year-old yellow horse, 14 écus, and a healing ointment. The father offers advice about courage and a letter of introduction to Monsieur de Tréville. At the Franc Meunier inn, a man over twice d'Artagnan's age ridicules him. The innkeeper and others assault the youth and carry him to the kitchen for first aid. A stranger realizes that the confrontation resulted from mention of de Tréville. Milady, a 21-year-old woman in a carriage, hurries back to England bearing instructions in a box. Two days later, as d'Artagnan sets out, he discovers his letter of recommendation missing. He journeys to Paris, sells his horse, has his broken sword repaired, and engages rooms near the Luxembourg. The next morning, he sets out to meet de Tréville.

Monsieur de Tréville's Anteroom

The rough play of musketeers at the home of de Tréville derives from high spirits. D'Artagnan admires the embroidered shoulder belt of Porthos, a tall musketeer, and observes Aramis, a soldier who wants to study for the priesthood. Porthos declares that scurrilous comment about the king and cardinal are acceptable, but no one should defame the queen.

The audience

While d'Artagnan awaits an audience with de Tréville, the older man complains that the musketeers embarrassed him before the cardinal's body guard. Athos, suffering from a chest wound,

appears and collapses from loss of blood. De Tréville informs d'Artagnan that he cannot join the company until he proves himself. The leader promises to send the youth to the Royal Academy to learn fencing, riding, and dancing. D'Artagnan proves himself honorable. On seeing the stranger through the window, d'Artagnan dashes out.

Athos's Shoulder, Porthos's Shoulder Belt, and Aramis's Handkerchief

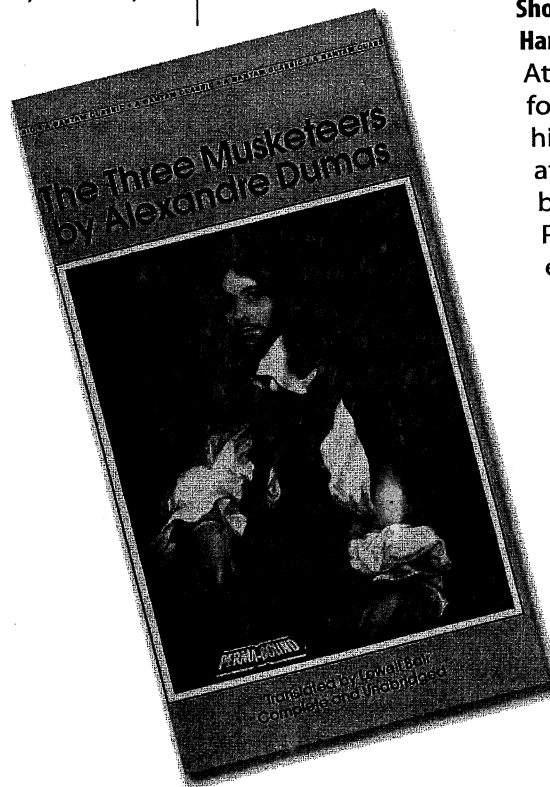
Athos chastises d'Artagnan for rudely bumping into him. Athos suggests a duel at noon. D'Artagnan becomes tangled in Porthos's cloak and encounters a second challenge for 1:00 P. M. At 11:00 A. M., d'Artagnan searches for his enemy and tries to be more courteous. Before the d'Aiguillon mansion, a quarrel ensues over a lady's handkerchief. Aramis calls d'Artagnan out for 2:00 P. M. D'Artagnan fully expects to die in one of the three duels.

The King's Musketeers and the Cardinal's Guards

After offering Athos some ointment for his wound, d'Artagnan realizes that Porthos and Aramis are serving as seconds in the duel. Jussac of the Cardinal's guards interrupts. Only Biscarat survives the match of four against five. The three musketeers accept d'Artagnan as a companion.

His majesty King Louis the Thirteenth

That evening, Louis XIII scolds de Tréville for the street brawl. De Tréville recommends d'Artagnan as the son of an old friend. Before a noon audience with the king at the Louvre, d'Artagnan faces



Bernajoux of the cardinal's guard. Rescuers hurry to aid Bernajoux, whom d'Artagnan skewers. De Tréville congratulates the neophyte swordsman. At 8:00 A. M. the next morning, de Tréville returns with the four youths to explain the fracas with Bernajoux. After the king awards d'Artagnan 40 pistoles, the youth shares them with the other musketeers.

The Musketeers at Home

D'Artagnan hires Planchet as his valet and tries to learn more about his three friends. Athos gambles and suffers from a serious but secret betrayal. Porthos is an indiscreet lady's man. Aramis is a would-be priest. The king makes d'Artagnan a cadet with a two-year apprenticeship.

A Court Intrigue

Three months into d'Artagnan's sojourn in Paris, the landlord, a draper named Bonacieux, informs d'Artagnan that Madame Bonacieux, who is the queen's linen maid, was abducted to separate her from the queen. The description of the kidnapper fits that of d'Artagnan's enemy. The landlord offers d'Artagnan free rent and 50 pistoles for Madame Bonacieux's return. D'Artagnan dashes out after the villain.

D'Artagnan Proves Himself

D'Artagnan fails to locate his enemy. Guards burst in and arrest the landlord. D'Artagnan welcomes them with wine, but informs the musketeers that the four are secretly involved in a war against the cardinal.

A Seventeenth-Century Mousetrap

D'Artagnan observes that the police arrest all who come to Bonacieux's house. The next evening, the police bind a woman who identifies herself as Madame Bonacieux. D'Artagnan leaps from the window, knocks at the landlord's door, and routs the police. He tells her that the landlord is in the Bastille. D'Artagnan proposes hiding her in Athos's apartment. Using the password "Tours and Brussels," he gains entrance to the Louvre. He rushes out to establish an alibi with de Tréville.

The Plot Thickens

D'Artagnan ponders the beauty and influence of Madame Bonacieux and considers taking her as a lover. At Aramis's lodgings, d'Artagnan sees two women exchanging handkerchiefs. One of the

women is Constance Bonacieux, who refuses to identify the second female. He suggests that the C. B. on the handkerchief stands for Camille de Bois-Tracy. He parts with Constance at midnight. At home, Planchet informs him that Athos has been arrested. D'Artagnan leaves and finds Constance walking with the duke of Buckingham. The duke accepts d'Artagnan's apology and has him follow the couple as a rear guard as they make their way to the Louvre.

George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham

In a darkened room, the duke meets with Anne of Austria, Queen of France, whom he adores. She blames him for the cardinal's slander. The duke believes that she loves him because they experienced identical dreams. He departs with a love token, a rosewood jewel box, and a promise to see her in six months.

Monsieur Bonacieux

At the Bastille, officials interrogate the landlord about high treason. He learns that Constance escaped the previous day at 5:00 P. M. The questioners believe that Athos is d'Artagnan. At 9:00 P. M., the landlord is taken away by carriage. He faints as the conveyance approaches the place where the lowest criminals are executed.

The Dark Stranger

Bonacieux enters Richelieu's apartment and identifies de Rochefort as the man who abducted Constance. De Rochefort reveals the meeting between the queen and Buckingham. It is too late for Richelieu to arrest Buckingham and Madame de Chevreuse. Richelieu pays the landlord 300 pistoles and ponders the siege of La Rochelle. Richelieu believes that the landlord will spy on Constance. The cardinal sends a note to Milady and asks her to cut two diamond tags from Buckingham's doublet.

Magistrates and Soldiers

The next day, de Tréville tries to exonerate Athos. Richelieu reveals to the king that Madame de Chevreuse uses Constance as an intermediary with the queen. De Tréville informs the king of Athos's arrest and offers an alibi for d'Artagnan. Richelieu believes Athos guilty. De Tréville offers to resign. The king has Athos released from For-l'Évêque prison. In private, Richelieu informs the king that Buckingham arrived in Paris five days past.

Chancellor Séguier Looks for the Bell That He Rang in His Youth

Richelieu accuses Buckingham of conspiring with the Huguenots and the Spanish, both enemies of the crown. The king believes that the queen is Buckingham's lover and sends Richelieu to retrieve the letter she wrote. It contains a plot to oust Richelieu. The cardinal proposes that the king have the queen wear the diamond tags to a dance. The next day, the king mentions the ball to his wife. On September 20, Richelieu proposes a ball for October 3.

Monsieur and Madame Bonacieux at Home

The king is concerned by the cardinal's involvement in the royal household. The queen fears a traitor among her ladies. Constance offers to have her husband retrieve the diamonds from Buckingham. The queen offers a ring in payment. The Bonacieux quarrel over their loyalties. Constance realizes that her husband cannot be trusted. D'Artagnan taps at the side door.

The Lover and the Husband

Constance hires d'Artagnan and pays him with the money Richelieu gave Bonacieux. The two retreat to d'Artagnan's apartment to eavesdrop on the landlord and de Rochefort.

Plans

D'Artagnan anticipates earning money and glory. With a two-week leave, he begins making plans. He informs Aramis of seeing a woman in his room. The three musketeers agree to the expedition to London.

The Journey

At 2:00 A. M., the four leave Paris. At Chantilly, Porthos insults a cardinalist. After an ambush at Beauvais, the men take Aramis to an inn for treatment of a wound. By midnight, they reach Amiens. The innkeeper accuses Athos of paying with counterfeit coins. At Calais, the captain refuses to sail. In a quarrel with a messenger, d'Artagnan stabs the man and receives a thrust to the chest. The ship departs just as the harbor closes. By 10:00 A.M. the next day, they anchor in Dover. D'Artagnan informs the duke of Buckingham that the queen is in danger.

Lady de Winter

D'Artagnan fills in what he knows about the cardinal's plot. The duke locates the diamonds in a secret room and discovers that two are missing. He hires O'Reilly, an Irish jeweler, to replace the missing diamonds. At 9:00 A. M. the next day, d'Artagnan reaches Saint-Valery. Following a designated route, he arrives safely in Paris with the diamonds.

The Merlaison Ballet

The next day, Paris is astir with anticipation of the ball. The king orders the queen to wear the diamonds. Richelieu alerts the king to the two missing tags. After the hour-long ballet, the king accuses the queen of losing two diamonds, but finds she has twelve. The queen awards d'Artagnan a ring for his service. Constance sends d'Artagnan home to await a note.

The Rendezvous

d'Artagnan arrives home and reads a summons from Constance for the next night at 1:00 P. M. at Saint-Cloud. The landlord is curious about d'Artagnan's whereabouts. De Tréville warns d'Artagnan to be on his guard and sends him to look for the musketeers. Planchet believes that the landlord brought the letter as a trap for d'Artagnan.

The Bungalow

At 9:00 P. M., d'Artagnan and Planchet set out for Saint-Cloud. D'Artagnan climbs a tree and discovers chaos in the cottage below. An old man reports on the abduction of a woman at 9:00 P. M. At midnight, d'Artagnan searches for Planchet. At 6:00 A. M., Planchet appears on schedule.

Porthos

De Tréville suspects that Richelieu set up the abduction and urges d'Artagnan to leave Paris. At home, d'Artagnan accuses the landlord of being away all night. Planchet and d'Artagnan reunite with Porthos and leave him at the inn to recover from a sprained knee.

Aramis's Thesis

D'Artagnan finds Aramis studying with a Jesuit and preparing a thesis that precedes ordination. Aramis tells about his first duel. D'Artagnan suggests that Aramis has a broken heart and gives him a letter from Madame de Chevreuse. Aramis regains his spirit.

Athos's Wife

Aramis is too sore from his wound to ride. At the inn where Athos was accused of being a counterfeiter, he remains in the cellar. D'Artagnan offers Athos's horse in payment for all the wine he drank. Athos tells of being deceived by a branded woman, whom he hanged.

The Return

Athos regrets getting drunk and telling the story of the hanged woman. He admits gambling away his horse. In Paris, d'Artagnan learns that he may enter the musketeers. The soldiers lack the money to equip themselves for a May 1 campaign. D'Artagnan's ring is their only asset.

The Search for Equipment

D'Artagnan follows Porthos to church, where he meets Madame de Coquenard, previously called "Milady."

Milady

D'Artagnan tells Athos about Porthos and Madame de Coquenard. D'Artagnan calls Lord de Winter, the lady's brother-in-law, to a duel behind the Luxembourg at 6:00 P.M.

Englishmen and Frenchmen

The four duelists and their servants arrive at the goat pen behind the Luxembourg. D'Artagnan spares Lord de Winter, who escorts his opponent to Milady's home. D'Artagnan returns four nights, each time encountering the maid Kitty in the foyer.

Lunch with the Coquenards

Porthos eats a skimpy meal with the Coquenards. Madame de Coquenard agrees to furnish Porthos and Mousqueton with a horse, mule, and valise.

Maid and Mistress

Kitty, Milady's maid, gives D'Artagnan a letter proving Milady's love for Count de Wardes. D'Artagnan hides in the wardrobe and hears Milady complain that he didn't kill Lord de Winter when he had the chance. D'Artagnan thinks Milady a monster. He plots to return to Milady's room.

Equipment for Aramis and Porthos

Aramis receives a letter and money from a beggar, the messenger from Aramis's lover. Porthos returns two unsuitable horses to the Coquenards. Madame de Coquenard invites Porthos that evening for a settling of accounts.

All Cats Are Gray in the Dark

D'Artagnan sneaks into Milady's room and pretends to be the Count de Wardes. She gives d'Artagnan a sapphire ring that Athos later recognizes as a family heirloom. Milady vows revenge against de Wardes for the insulting letter that d'Artagnan sends under de Wardes's name.

Dreams of Vengeance

At 9:00 P.M., d'Artagnan vows his love for Milady, who demands vengeance against Count de Wardes. D'Artagnan promises to return at 11:00 P.M.

Milady's Secret

D'Artagnan wrestles with his desire for revenge against Count de Wardes and his passion for Milady. D'Artagnan confesses that he posed as de Wardes and received the ring. In her boudoir, D'Artagnan accidentally tears her negligee and discovers on her shoulder a fleur-de-lis brand, the mark of a convict. In a desperate fight, she forces him out of bed. He slips into Kitty's room and dresses in women's clothes.

How Athos Got His Equipment without Effort

D'Artagnan flees from the house and describes the brand to Athos. To buy equipment, d'Artagnan decides to pawn the ring. Kitty seeks shelter and reports that Bonacieux has visited Milady twice. Athos sells the ring for cash to buy weapons, harness, and a horse.

A Vision

An unsigned note summons d'Artagnan to the Chaillot road that night between 6:00 and 7:00 P.M. A second note invites him to the cardinal's palace at 8:00 P.M. Constance blows a kiss from a carriage window. When he arrives at the cardinal's palace, the great man is writing a play, *Mirame*.

The Cardinal

The cardinal asks d'Artagnan to be a lieutenant in his guards and displays a dossier on d'Artagnan's actions. D'Artagnan refuses. The cardinal promises to watch him at La Rochelle. The next morning, after the king inspects the troops, the musketeers leave for battle. Milady points out d'Artagnan to two pursuers.

The Siege of La Rochelle

La Rochelle is the last bastion of Calvinism. The cardinal promotes the siege as vengeance against

the duke of Buckingham. D'Artagnan arrives at camp on September 10, 1627, and flees an ambush. On September 12, he and four others volunteer for a mission that involves a second ambush. Feigning death, he wrenches from one attacker Milady's plan for revenge.

The Anjou Wine

Poisoned wine kills Brisemont, who damns d'Artagnan for the crime. Athos realizes that Milady is his former wife. The musketeers plot a rescue of Constance from a Carmelite convent.

The Colombier-Rouge Inn

When the three musketeers head for an inn, Athos encounters the cardinal. The musketeers report a fight at the inn. The cardinal asks them to wait while he goes upstairs.

The Usefulness of Stovepipes

The cardinal dispatches Milady to see the duke of Buckingham. As the cardinal plots with her, she reveals that the queen rescued Constance and sent her to a convent. Milady describes d'Artagnan's treachery.

A Conjugal Scene

The two remaining musketeers report that Athos scouts the cardinal's enemies. Athos slips back to the inn to confront his former wife. The two identify themselves as Count de La Fère and Anne de Breuil. He reports spying on her and threatens to kill her if she harms d'Artagnan. That night, she sails for England.

The Saint-Gervais Bastion

Unharméd, the musketeers enter the Saint-Gervais Bastion.

The Musketeers' Conference

Only dead men remain inside. The musketeers fire on an approaching band of workmen and four soldiers. D'Artagnan reports that Milady is going to kill the Duke of Buckingham. Athos reveals the letter from the cardinal granting absolution. When the enemy approaches, the musketeers fire on them, then push a section of wall on the survivors. Porthos offers to strangle Milady. The four decide to warn Lord de Winter that Milady is going to murder the duke of Buckingham. That night, des Essarts sells d'Artagnan's diamond ring and sends him 7,000 livres.

A Family Matter

The four musketeers conspire with Marie Michon at Tours.

A Disastrous Setback

On Milady's arrival in England, a naval officer hands her into a carriage. At a room in a stone castle, she becomes Lord de Winter's prisoner.

A Conversation between Relatives

Lord de Winter questions Milady about her motives, then leaves John Felton to guard her cell door.

Officer!

The people of La Rochelle hold out hopes of rescue by the duke of Buckingham. Marie Michon sends d'Artagnan word of Constance, who resides at the Carmelite convent at Béthune.

First Day of Captivity

Milady pretends to faint. She plots to use John Felton as an ally.

Second Day of Captivity

Milady feigns illness, then poses as a Puritan and anti-Catholic. She convinces Felton of her piety.

Third Day of Captivity

Milady pretends to be suicidal. De Winter offers her deportation papers identifying her as Charlotte Backson. She poses as a hymn singer for Felton's benefit.

Fourth Day of Captivity

Milady pretends to hang herself and wins Felton's complicity.

Fifth Day of Captivity

At midnight on her fifth day of imprisonment, Milady narrates to Felton a melodramatic story of her dishonor.

A Superb Dramatic Performance

Milady reveals the fleur-de-lis brand on her shoulder and accuses the duke of Buckingham of persecuting her. She pretends to stab herself in the chest. Felton departs with the knife.

Escape

On August 22, Milady claims to be gravely injured. Felton comes to rescue her and charts a ship to Boulogne.

The Three Musketeers Alexandre Dumas

What Happened in Portsmouth on August 23, 1628

On August 23, John Felton walks to Portsmouth and brings the deportation papers to the duke of Buckingham. Felton stabs Buckingham. Too late, a letter from the queen warns Buckingham of danger. Buckingham dies. Felton realizes that Milady has tricked him.

In France

Charles I learns of the duke of Buckingham's death. Marie Michon sends the queen's note to release Constance from the convent.

The Carmelite Convent at Béthune

At the convent, Milady pretends to dislike the cardinal. She encounters Constance. The Count de Rochefort, the cardinal's man, arrives and sets out for Arras, where d'Artagnan recognizes him.

Two Types of Demon

Milady tells Constance that the messenger was really Milady's brother Georges and that the letter from Madame de Chevreuse is a forgery.

The Drop of Water

Milady intends to use Constance Bonacieux as a hostage. After Milady poisons Constance, d'Artagnan arrives and collapses by the corpse. Lord de Winter joins the musketeers. Athos takes responsibility for Milady.

The Man in the Red Cloak

Athos tracks Milady to Armentières. He arrives with a masked man in a red cloak.

The Trial

The musketeers and the masked man approach Milady. Athos stops d'Artagnan from shooting Milady so she can stand trial. She recognizes Lord de Winter. An accounting of her crimes attests to her menace. The masked man identifies himself as the executioner of Lille and tells how Milady was a nun at Templemar. The men condemn her to death.

The Execution

The executioner rows Milady across the Lys and, out of sight of the musketeers, beheads her.

Conclusion

The queen learns of the duke of Buckingham's death. Count de Rochefort arrests d'Artagnan. The cardinal accuses d'Artagnan of treason and shudders at news of Milady's decapitation. D'Artagnan

produces the pardon signed by the cardinal. The cardinal names d'Artagnan a lieutenant in the musketeers. D'Artagnan gives the commission to Athos, who rejects it. Porthos refuses it because he is going to marry the duchess. Aramis is giving up the military to become a Lazarist. Athos writes d'Artagnan's name on the commission. D'Artagnan weeps at the loss of his friends.

Epilogue

La Rochelle surrenders on October 28, 1628. Porthos marries Madame de Coquenard. Aramis becomes a monk at Nancy. Athos remains a musketeer until he receives an inheritance. After three duels, the Count de Rochefort and d'Artagnan become friends.

A Timeline of Historical and Fictional Events

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1607 | D'Artagnan is born in Meung, Gascony. |
| 1622 | Richelieu is named a cardinal. |
| early April | |
| 1625 | D'Artagnan leaves his father and travels to the Franc Meunier inn. Milady hurries back to England bearing instructions in a box. |
| two days later | D'Artagnan discovers his letter of recommendation is missing. |
| next morning | He meets Monsieur de Tréville. |
| 11:00 A. M. | D'Artagnan fully expects to die in one of three duels. |
| that evening | Louis XIII scolds de Tréville for the street brawl. |
| next morning | D'Artagnan kills Bernajoux. |
| 8:00 A. M. the | |
| next morning | The king awards d'Artagnan 40 pistoles. |
| July 1625 | Madame Bonacieux is abducted. |
| next evening | D'Artagnan routs the police from the Bonacieux home. |
| later | With d'Artagnan as rear guard, Constance walks with the duke of Buckingham. |
| that night | The duke receives a rosewood jewel box from the queen. |
| 9:00 P. M. | A carriage takes the landlord away from the Bastille. |
| next day | Richelieu reveals to the king that Madame de Chevreuse uses Constance as an intermediary with the queen. |

- September 20** To trap the queen, Richelieu proposes a ball for October 3.
- October 2** D'Artagnan arrives safely in Paris with the diamonds.
- October 3** The queen awards d'Artagnan a ring for his service.
- October 4, 9:00 P. M.** At cottage in Saint-Cloud. D'Artagnan learns of a woman's kidnap.
- later** Athos is locked in a cellar for passing counterfeit coins.
- May 1, 1627** Richelieu commands the troops of Louis XIII against Huguenots at La Rochelle.
- August 10** Richelieu begins the siege of La Rochelle.
- August 22, 1628** John Felton rescues Milady and charts a ship to Boulogne.
- August 23** Felton stabs the duke of Buckingham.
- October 28** La Rochelle surrenders.
- later** D'Artagnan advances to lieutenant in the musketeers.
- December 23** Louis XIII makes a triumphal entry to Paris.
- 1633** Athos resigns from the musketeers.
- 1643** The 72-year reign of Louis XIV begins.

Alexandre Dumas's Life

Alexandre Dumas is best known for exciting, improbable episodic novels set against the colorful eras of French history. Born at Villers-Cotterets, France, on July 24, 1802, he was the son of Marie-Louise Labouret and Alexandre Davy de la Pailleterie, a French nobleman who distinguished himself as a general in Napoleon's army. The Dumas surname came from the author's grandmother, an Afro-Caribbean islander from Santo Domingo. After the general's death in 1806, the penniless family could not afford a quality education for Dumas. His love of history books led to an extensive knowledge of the heroic deeds, plots, and cruelties of the 16th and 17th centuries. At age 21, he settled in Paris as a protégé of the Duc d'Orleans. He absorbed performances by a Shakespearean troupe, read Sir Walter



Scott and Friedrich Schiller, and involved himself in the drame romantique of French theater.

Dumas learned his craft by composing melodrama and vaudeville sketches. His first literary success, *Henry III et Sa Cour* (1829), succeeded with fans of the Comedie Française despite being written in prose. Abandoning his job as a legal clerk, he wrote plays, historical novels, and travelogues. Drawing on a story about a shoemaker whose friends have him arrested on the eve of his wedding, Dumas developed a two-volume cape-and-sword classic, *The Count of Monte Cristo* (1846), which he based on soldier and pamphleteer Courtlitz de Sandras's *Memoirs of Monsieur d'Artagnan* (1700). Dumas employed researchers Auguste Maquet and P. A. Fiorentino, his literary collaborators, to comb memoirs and to fill the author's romances with vivid details of piracy, Mediterranean lands, buried treasure, dueling, poison, unrequited love, and the intrigue of the Napoleonic era and the French court. The story was adapted for stage in 1848.

Like his characters, Dumas lived extravagantly, participated in the revolution of 1830, and journeyed to Italy and Switzerland to recover from cholera. While writing for the *Revue des Deux Mondes* and *La Mode*, and publishing a newspaper, *Le Mousquetaire*, he squandered money on hangers-on, art, travel, mistresses, and his extravagant estate, called Monte Cristo. At age 58, he supported Garibaldi, father of Italy, in a four-year battle for nationalism. Dumas published over 103 volumes of prose that ranged from swashbuckling romance to farce, journalism, cuisine, children's stories, memoirs, and politics. He established a theater to showcase his dramas. The first of his three illegitimate sons and namesake, the author of *Camille* (1852), was known professionally as Alexandre fils, a pious contrast to an amoral father who lived openly with dressmaker Marie Catherine Labay. At the approach of death from stroke in Puy, France, on December 5, 1870, Dumas père remarked, "I shall tell her a story and she will be kind to me."

Alexandre Dumas and the Critics

At the height of French romanticism, Dumas wrote long, involved romans feuilletons (serial novels) with astounding speed and control. Critics admire his engaging style for its energetic esprit de corps and brash, resourceful heroes. Others detest his

unsophisticated plots, loose construction, coincidences, imitative Gothic touches, and exaggeration of love affairs, spying, capricious imprisonment, and suspenseful escapes. Many compare him to his British contemporary, poet and romanticist Sir Walter Scott. William Makepeace Thackeray extolled the French writer as "Alexander the Great." D. W. Brogan recognized the effect that works like *The Three Musketeers* and its sequels—*Twenty Years After* (1845) and *The Vicomte de Bragelonne* (1848-1850)—had on the world's image of France, particularly with Scots fiction writer Robert Louis Stevenson.

For chronicling the age of cavaliers, Dumas provided literature with an eponymous trio who flourished on stage and in film, animated cartoon, and television productions. He created an air of verisimilitude aboard ships, at court, and in the field by juxtaposing imaginary characters alongside real people—Henri III, Catherine de Médicis, Richelieu, Marie Antoinette, Mazarin, Anne of Austria, Louis XIII, and Louis XIV. English dramatist and critic George Bernard Shaw epitomized Dumas's canon as "a summit of art. Nobody ever could, or did, or will improve on Dumas's romances and plays."

Alexandre Dumas's Published Works

Henry III and His Court, 1829
Christine, 1830
Napoleon Bonaparte, 1831
Antony, 1831
Charles VII, 1831
The Tower of Nesle, 1832
Adventures in Switzerland, 1833-1837
Catherine Howard, 1834
Cromwell and Charles I, 1835
Don Juan de Marana, 1836
Isabel of Bavaria, 1836
Kean, 1836
Caligula, 1837
Pauline, 1838
Captain Paul, 1838
Acté, 1839
Mademoiselle de Belle-Isle, 1839
The Alchemist, 1839
Othon the Archer, 1840
Southern France, 1841
The Marriage of Louis XV, 1841
The Young Ladies of Saint-Cyr, 1843
Georges, 1843

The Knight of Harmenthal, 1843
Ascanio, 1843
The Three Musketeers, 1843-1844
Cécile, 1844
Fernance, 1844
Amaury, 1844
Twenty Years After, 1845
The Corsican Brothers, 1845
Marguerite de Valois, 1845
Queen Margot, 1845
The Knight of the Red House, 1846
Agénor de Mauléon, 1846
Chicot the Jester, 1846
The Count of Monte Cristo, 1846
Nanot, 1846
Memoirs of a Physician, Joseph Balsamo, 1846-1848
The Regent's Daughter, 1847
The 45 Guardsmen, 1848
The Vicomte de Bragelonne, 1848-1850
The Queen's Necklace, 1849-1850
Ange Pitou, 1851
The Vampire, 1851
The Taking of the Bastille, 1852
The Blameless Conscience, 1842
The Story of a Nutcracker, 1845
La Bouillie de la Comtesse Berthe, 1845
The Bastard of Mauléon, 1849
The Black Tulip, 1850
The Mouth of Hell, 1850
The Woman with the Velvet Necklace, 1851
Olympe de Clèves, 1852
My Memoirs, 1852-1855
La Comtesse de Charny, 1853-1855
Ingénue, 1854
Catherine Blum, 1854
The Oresteia, 1856
The Wolf Leader, 1857
Jehu's Companions, 1857
Adventures in Caucasia, 1859
The Last Vendee, 1859
The Whites and the Blues, 1867-1868
The Story of My Animals, 1868
The Great Dictionary of Cookery, 1873

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Media Versions

audiobook (dramatized)

The Three Musketeers, Amazon, 2005

audiobook for children

The Three Musketeers, Penguin, 1996

audiocassette (unabridged)

The Three Musketeers, Bookcassette, 1998

audio CD (abridged)

The Three Musketeers, Naxos, 1996

download

The Three Musketeers, Amazon Press, 2000

DVD & VHS

The Three Musketeers, Disney, 2002

General Objectives

1. To enumerate the conventions of war and intrigue literature
2. To comment on the psychological aspects of treachery, loss, courage, revenge, and violence
3. To evaluate behaviors and attitudes of soldiers, sweethearts, and power mongers
4. To explain the set-up and management of a regiment of musketeers
5. To note human reactions to duels resulting in death
6. To contrast chronological history with historical fiction
7. To compare political and religious goals with military aims
8. To account for mounting suspense
9. To characterize episodic narrative

10. To list emotional truths arising from war stories

Specific Objectives

1. To validate the musketeers' love entanglements
2. To explain why Milady poisons Constance Bonacieux
3. To list examples of disguises, forgeries, love tokens, and deceptions
4. To discuss the strengths of musketeer friendships
5. To summarize the roles of La Porte, Kitty, John Felton, Planchet, and Mousqueton
6. To account for the breakup of the musketeers
7. To analyze the clashes between French Calvinists and Catholics
8. To characterize d'Artagnan's skill at quick rescues and escapes
9. To recount the capture and execution of Milady
10. To express the importance of the duke of Buckingham to the novel

Literary Terms and Applications

For a better understanding of Alexandre Dumas's chivalric fiction, present the following terms and applications:

Episodic narrative a composite picture of an action drawn from brief, but stirring encounters. A complicated mode of fiction, the episodic narrative requires the linkage of events through frequent meetings of the musketeers to share stories, warn of lurking danger, comment on motivation, and provide backup for friends in need. Dumas is a master at developing themes and suspense through well-timed episodes that advance the plot.

Hero a protagonist or central figure endowed with the qualities of an admirable person or leader, particularly skill, grace, honesty, courage, and/or truth. For his military skill, idealism, and valor, d'Artagnan develops from a wide-eyed cadet into a valiant soldier. His handsome appearance and muscular form endear him to women, who become his accomplices. Dumas concludes the romance by elevating d'Artagnan to a lieutenant in the musketeers.

Romance an action story or narrative based on elements of idealism, adventure, pursuit, mystery, escapism, valor, and love. *The Three Musketeers* balances fearful conflicts and suspenseful plots against emotional assignments and enduring love threatened by unstable times in the lives of four soldiers. The harnessing of these opposites promotes a standard motif in romantic literature, the juxtaposition of love and death.

The Importance of Setting

The milieu of Alexandre Dumas's *The Three Musketeers* contrasts the extremes of wealth and nobility at the court of Louis XIII and his queen, Anne of Austria, with the rise of ambitious soldiers attached to two regiments of musketeers, one guarding the king and the other guarding Cardinal Richelieu. Quick movement by day and night shifts settings from streets and lanes in Paris to dark, winding lanes, rural inns, and candle-lit cottages barely discernable by moonlight. Dumas enhances romance with chiaroscuro, the play of light against dark, both in physical landscapes and in emotional responses to characters who aren't what they seem. The triumph of four soldiers over the forces of evil takes shape in the flash of torches and candles on scenes of duplicity and struggle.

The siege of La Rochelle, the main historical event, requires the equipping and mustering of troops. However, the faceoff between the cardinal's forces and Huguenot citizens recedes in the backdrop as the story of d'Artagnan takes him to the anteroom of Monsieur de Tréville, the home of Constance Bonacieux, the lodgings of the three musketeers, and an encounter with Anne of Austria at the Louvre. As the episodic story sharpens its focus on Milady, Dumas pursues her to Portsmouth, England, and to imprisonment in the castle of Lord de Winter before returning the action to France. Milady's arrival at a subdued Carmelite convent at Béthune and her convincing friendship with the abbess and Constance precede the climax, Milady's poisoning of Constance and Milady's escape through a locked garden gate. A symbolic setting ends Milady's life, with the headsman rowing her over the Lys River and her execution out of sight of the musketeers.

Cross-Curricular Sources

For more information about Louis XIII, soldiery, muskets, Anne of Austria, Alexandre Dumas, the siege of La Rochelle, Cardinal Richelieu, George Villiers, and other subjects and issues deriving from the novel, consult these sources:

Article

Beik, William. "A King at Four," *Calliope* 12, no. 8 (April 2002): 8-10.

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Merrick, Jeffrey. "The Cardinal and the Queen," *French Historical Studies* 18, no. 3 (spring 1994): 667-699.

Reinhardt, Steven G. "Anne of Austria," *Historian* 61, no. 1 (fall 1998): 200.

Audiocassettes

All Quiet on the Western Front, Harper-Caedmon
Lawrence of Arabia, Isis Audio

Books

Joan of Arc
The Man in the Iron Mask
The Prisoner of Zenda

Download

The Man in the Iron Mask, Adobe

Internet

The Siege of La Rochelle, 1627-1628
<http://www.zum.de/whkmla/military/17cen/larochelle16271628.html>.

Map

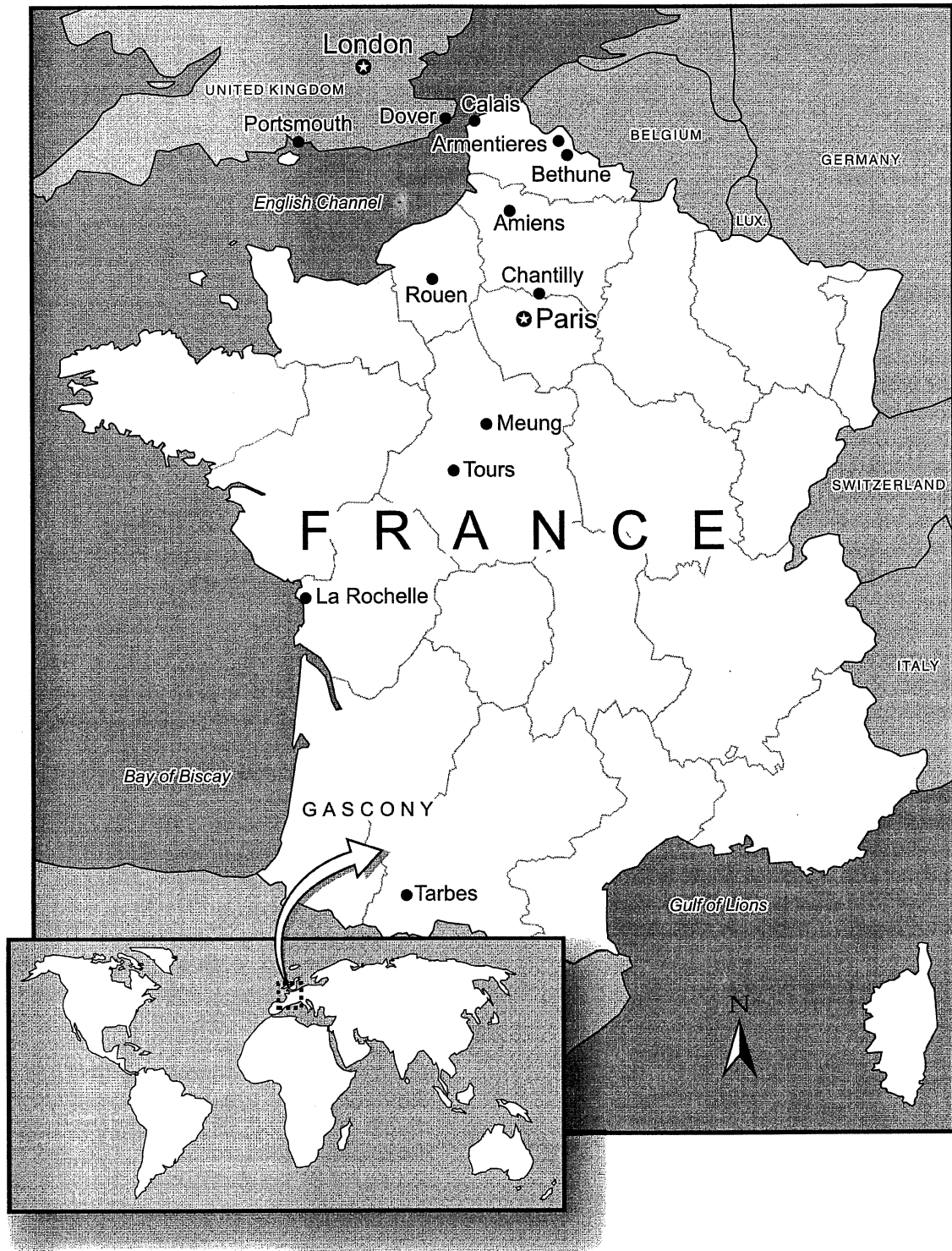
France, National Geographic

Drama

Cyrano de Bergerac
Henry V
Murder in the Cathedral

Poetry

Chanson de Roland
El Cid
The Prisoner of Chillon
To Lucasta



Reference

The British Monarchy, Oxford
Buckingham: The Life and Political Career of George Villiers, Longman
Cardinal Richelieu and the Making of France, Carroll & Graf

France in the Age of Louis XIII and Richelieu, Praeger
Richelieu, Longman

Videos/films

Alexander
The Count of Monte Cristo

Cyrano de Bergerac
El Cid
Henry V
Joan of Arc
Lawrence of Arabia
The Lion in Winter
The Man in the Iron Mask
The Prisoner of Zenda
Troy

Related Reading

Mariano Azuela, *The Underdogs*
Lord Byron, *The Prisoner of Chillon*
Miguel de Cervantes, *Don Quixote*
Alexandre Dumas, *The Man in the Iron Mask* and
The Count of Monte Cristo
La Chanson de Roland *El Cid*
Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*
Chretien de Troyes, *Arthurian Romances*
Nikolai Gogol, *Taras Bulba*
James Goldman, *The Lion in Winter*
Anthony Hope, *The Prisoner of Zenda*
Guillaume de Lorris, *The Romance of the Rose*
Christine de Pizan, *The Book of the City of Ladies*
Erich Maria Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front*
Mary Renault, *The Persian Boy*
William Shakespeare, *Henry V*
George Bernard Shaw, *Saint Joan*
Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
Winnie Smith, *American Daughter Gone to War*
Mary Stewart, *The Crystal Cave* and *The Hollow Hills*
Mark Twain, *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*
T. H. White, *The Sword in the Stone*

Themes and Motifs

A study of the central issues and situations in Alexandre Dumas's *The Three Musketeers* should include these aspects:

Themes

- courage
- brotherhood
- rivalry
- daring
- romance
- war
- espionage
- duplicity
- survival
- reward

Motifs

- coping with regret and yearning
- understanding the dangers of combat
- assuming the role of rescuer

Meaning Study

Below are significant words, phrases, or sentences from the romance. Explain each in context. Chapter and page numbers pinpoint each entry so that you can re-read the passage in which it appears.

1. And then, besides all this secret and open warfare, there were robbers, beggars, Huguenots, wolves, and lackeys, who were at war with everyone. (Chapter 1, p. 1)
(In the 1500s and 1600s, the Huguenots were a suspect people reviled for being the minority Protestants in a Catholic nation. They got their start during the Protestant Reformation, during which rebels against Roman Catholicism demanded less grandeur and corruption in the church. In the mid-16th century, the French Huguenots formed a denomination that welcomed fellow warriors against the extremes of Catholicism. The crown interpreted the press for religious reform as a revolt against the government. Cardinal Richelieu superintended the gradual extermination of Huguenot communities through violent military clashes and deprivation of civil and human rights.)

2. He had a long, dark face with prominent cheekbones, a mark of shrewdness; his jaw muscles were heavily developed, an infallible sign by which one can recognize a Gascon, even without a beret, and our young man wore a beret adorned with some sort of feather. (Chapter 1, p. 2)
(The initial description of d'Artagnan indicates a pride of place that borders on cockiness and impetuosity. Gascony, a region in southwestern France, derives its identity from its closeness to Iberia and its cultural link to the Pyrenees Mountains and to the Basque dialect. Dumas later characterizes the Gascons as "the Scotsmen of France," a reference to the uniqueness of Scots among the English, Irish, and Welsh of the British Isles.)
3. Louis XIII had genuine affection for Tréville—a royal, selfish affection, but still affection. (Chapter 2, p. 16)
(The backdrop of the novel is the turbulent reign of Louis XIII, whose 33-year reign earned regard across Europe for the sagacity of the king's minister, Cardinal Richelieu. Louis fought well for his people, but his physical and mental weakness turned him into the pawn of his conniving minister. The king's greatest contribution to France was his son, Louis XIV, born to Anne of Austria.)
4. I've asked two of my friends to act as my seconds, but they haven't come yet. (Chapter 5, p. 44)
(The duel displays the paradox of romance and brutality in a single act. Two combatants, armed with swords or dueling pistols, arrived at a prearranged site to settle a difference of opinion or a point of honor according to the strict codes of one-on-one fighting. Often, one of the duelers died at the scene or was permanently disabled. Dueling scars attested to the courage of survivors. To assure a fair fight, participants brought seconds, witnesses who affirmed that the set-to was not an ambush or the murder of an unarmed man.)
5. As soon as d'Artagnan was outside the Louvre, he consulted his friends about how he should spend his share of the forty pistoles. (Chapter 7, p. 710)
(One of the most prominent landmarks in

France, the Louvre is a large palace dating to the reign of Francis I in 1546. Louis XIII made major additions to the original edifice, which Cardinal Richelieu stocked with exquisite art works.)

6. Servants are like women: they must be quickly taught to behave as you want them to. (Chapter 7, p. 78)
(The chauvinism of French males reverberates through the text. By posturing as great warriors and lovers, men reduce fine wine, hunting dogs, horses, money, jewels, and women to collectibles. Thus, Alexandre Dumas explains the questionable behaviors of Milady, Kitty, and Anne of Austria as disobedience by women who have not received proper training by dominant males. Aramis perpetuates the stereotype of females with his comment about Madame Bonacieux: "Women were created for our downfall, and all our misery comes from them.")
7. All for one, one for all. (Chapter 9, p. 95).
(Dumas's famous credo and rallying cry, "Tous pour un, un pour tous," expresses the centrality of camaraderie and collaboration to soldiers. The author carries the concept to its maturational conclusion, when the four men outgrow egotistical adventures and choose permanent lifestyles, careers, or marriage.)
8. Those men were much more dangerous than robbers, because they're agents of the cardinal, and your husband isn't here because yesterday he was arrested and taken to the Bastille. (Chapter 10, p. 100)
(Incarceration in the Bastille, a medieval fort in Paris, equaled detention in a state prison. Cardinal Richelieu introduced the terrifying seizure and removal of political prisoners to the Bastille, which tended to receive rebels and anti-royalists as well as Richelieu's personal enemies. In the 18th century, the building symbolized the capricious vengeance of the powerful and a bulwark of injustice. It was a worthy victim of the French Revolution of 1789.)
9. "He's the duke of Buckingham," Madame Bonacieux whispered, "and now that you know it, our fate depends on you." (Chapter 11, p. 121)
(George Villiers, the first duke of Buckingham,

openly courted Anne of Austria, the wife of Louis XIII and queen of France. The scandal widened the rift between the queen and the queen mother, Marie de Médicis, and gave Cardinal Richelieu greater control over the king. At age 36, Villiers was assassinated by John Felton, a crazed naval officer. Dumas's romance proposes a far-fetched motivation for the killing.)

10. She asked for directions to the Carmelite convent and went there immediately. (Chapter 61, p. 579)
(A mendicant religious order formed in the Middle Ages, the Carmelites focused on benevolence to the poor. They lived apart from the world in an austere setting, where they observed vows of silence and abstinence. Influenced by the rule of St. Teresa of Ávila, Carmelite nuns fostered worship of the Virgin Mary, often working in teaching, and nursing positions.)

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 with quotations from the novel.

Character

1. How does Milady bequile men?
(Milady uses beauty, wit, and charm to overpower d'Artagnan. Her skill at manipulating male affections is obvious to Kitty, the maid who watches the femme fatale in nightly boudoir assignations next door to Kitty's chamber. Milady is a facile liar who acts the part of the naïf, ingénue, dishonored female, pious Protestant, anti-cardinalite, and great lady, depending on the circumstances. In a cell in Lord de Winter's stone castle, she inveigles the guard, John Felton, with Puritan hymn singing, a piteous tale of dishonor and the brand of a criminal, and a phony suicide attempt by plunging a knife into her chest. By the time she has boarded a chartered ship for Boulogne, Felton is just beginning to realize the power of her numerous innocent poses.)

Setting

2. Describe the Carmelite convent.
(At the Carmelite convent at Béthune, Dumas turns from male-dominated scenes of carousing, drinking, wenching, riding, and fighting to

picture a serene female-centered religious retreat. Women like Constance Bonacieux take refuge at the hermitage, which appears safe from the violence and religious turmoil of 17th-century France. The abbess demonstrates the grace and poise of a devout nun. She naively admits Milady and fosters the friendship by which Milady deceives and ultimately murders Constance with a poisoned drink. Milady's malice leads her from the murder scene through a quiet garden and out a locked gate to the violent world she knows best.)

Character Development

3. Describe the change in d'Artagnan.
(Throughout the novel, d'Artagnan matures from the 18-year-old leaving Gascony for the first time to a worthy soldier of the king's honor guard. At first, the cadet is clumsy and unmannerly because he lacks experience with the layered courtesies of court life. Once he witnesses the pretense of courtliness and the underlying deceit and plotting, he begins to picture a musketeer's life as less straight-forward fighting and more discreet observations of whom to trust and whom to avoid. After he gains a promotion to lieutenant at age 21, he tries to share his good fortune with the three musketeers who have been like brothers to him. Because the group is breaking up, he realizes that the raucous fun he has enjoyed with Aramis, Athos, and Porthos must come to an end. In the resolution, d'Artagnan gains a new perspective on the responsibilities of military life, which he chooses for his career.)

Action

4. Why does the execution take place apart from the main scene?
(Alexandre Dumas builds case upon case for Milady's punishment. So many crimes accrue to the 20-year-old woman's reputation that she sinks under the weight of multiple felonies. Dumas uses the symbolism of the Lys River to separate her from worthier characters. Because the name means "lily," it implies the purity and chastity that Milady has long abjured in favor of spying, collusion, and murder. On the far side of the water, apart from the musketeers, she meets her death at the hands of the headsman, who has a personal reason for wanting her dead.)

Conflict

5. Describe the conflicts generated by Richelieu. *(An adroit manipulator, Richelieu outsmarts Louis XIII by compiling dossiers on dangerous court figures and by employing Count de Rochefort to carry out illicit acts, including kidnapping, false arrest and imprisonment in the Bastille, and assassination. Richelieu locates the weaknesses of Louis XIII and constantly undermines the king's authority by referring to the attraction of the duke of Buckingham for Anne of Austria, Louis's wife. To promulgate a religious war, the cardinal insists that Huguenots endanger the French throne. The fearful topics of national revolt and religious heresy keep the nation astir. By orchestrating the imbalance, Richelieu maintains his primacy as court minister and wielder of power.)*

Interpretation

6. What are the servants' roles? *(The musketeers require servants as a demonstration of social status. In addition, servants perform tasks that the soldiers can't. The declassé valets move anonymously through the streets, collect information, and make purchases and arrangements without revealing the names of their employers. As intermediaries, they can lounge among palace guards and innkeepers without revealing their missions. By supporting the musketeers in tight situations, the servants extend the range of the soldiers' control and corroborate strategy for combat, duels, and courtships.)*

Atmosphere

7. How does the atmosphere shift in the falling action? *(Milady, the elusive female villain of the first chapter, meanders in and out of commentary until the falling action. As d'Artagnan analyzes the cause and effect of her plots, he realizes that she is a female monster capable of criminal extremes. Like a poisonous serpent, she slithers in and out of male-centered scenes with reptilian ease. Skilled at deception, she poses as a refined lady and as a wronged maiden in need of protection. Dumas proves to the reader Milady's menace in the poisoning of Constance Bonacieux, a kind and trusting young woman who falls easily into Milady's clutches. The apprehension and beheading of Milady departs*

from the cat and mouse techniques of earlier scenes by proving to the reader that a grisly retribution awaits so insidious a killer.)

Motivation

8. Why do the musketeers disband? *(Dumas illustrates the formation of a musketeer coterie as an element of youth. Ambitious and rambunctious, the four musketeers enjoy boasting, strutting, and challenging other males as a form of exhibition and self-affirmation. D'Artagnan is a welcome fourth to the original three—Aramis, Athos, and Porthos—because of his swordsmanship and his need for mentors to smooth over his rough behaviors. The foursome alters in allegiance and performance throughout the action as the men began reaching toward permanent life choices. The obvious yearning of Aramis for a priestly life permeates the text. In the falling action, Porthos's marriage to Madame de Coquenard and Athos's preference for an inheritance over a military promotion complete the character disconnect. Saddened by the collapse of the brotherhood, d'Artagnan remains wedded to the musketeers. His selection of Count de Rochefort as a friend suggests that d'Artagnan is not yet ready to give up his free-wheeling lifestyle and settle down.)*

Author Method

9. How does Alexandre Dumas picture chivalry? *(A classic chivalric romance, Alexandre Dumas's The Three Musketeers accentuates the risky behavior, jocular, and short-term aims of young soldiers in service to powerful figures. He pictures the knightly class as impetuous youths who live apart from polite society as fully armed and mounted warriors kept ready to defend the crown. A necessary safeguard on potentially dangerous males is the requirement of courtliness and gallantry, two counter-balances to acquired honors that derive from the ability to kill. In the declining years of chivalry, which took shape during the Middle Ages, d'Artagnan performs his military service for king, queen, and country. By gradually weaning his hero from fun-filled fracas and romances, Dumas indicates that Europe no longer needed the knight errant as it had in past centuries.)*

Unity

10. How do episodes build suspense?
(To maintain control of a sprawling novel, Alexandre Dumas unifies his text with frequent references to the same villains, Cardinal Richelieu and Milady. The gradual revelations of intrigue and felonies indicate a source of corruption in France that threatens the crown. Dumas layers so many episodes that the reader is convinced that a rotten core requires excision. Because the musketeers are only a handful of young upstarts, they are incapable of stopping Milady from accepting instructions from the cardinal and or from carrying out her missions. The deaths of the duke of Buckingham and Constance Bonacieux and the lapse of John Felton into a raving assassin enhance the theme of retribution. In the plot resolution, d'Artagnan remains a military servant of the king and begins to see the immensity of crimes and corruption that project the musketeer's future responsibilities to the fighting corps.)

How Language Works

Dumas cleverly intersperses personal faults and weaknesses into each character introduction:

1. In the first appearance of d'Artagnan's father, Dumas suggests the type of upbringing that will influence the youth as he leaves home. The father exhorts, "For yourself, your relatives, and your friends, never tolerate the slightest affront from anyone except the cardinal or the king."
2. As supervisor of quarreling, egotistical musketeers, Monsieur de Tréville has the right personal makeup: "He was also one of those rare people with the obedient intelligence of a mastiff, reckless valor, alert eyes, and hands always ready to act."
3. D'Artagnan's love, Madame Constance Bonacieux, takes on the frail, but alluring femininity popular in Dumas's fiction: "She was a charming woman in her early twenties, with dark hair, blue eyes, a slightly turned-up nose, admirable teeth, and a fair complexion that was now partly pink."

4. The Duke of Buckingham possesses the explosive qualities of a dashing, but short-lived bon vivant: "The favorite of two kings, enormously wealthy, all-powerful in a kingdom that he stirred up or calmed to suit his fancy, George Villiers, duke of Buckingham, had undertaken one of those prodigious lives that remain through the centuries as a source of amazement for posterity."

Across the Curriculum

Drama

1. Pantomime the story of Judith and Holofernes. Discuss with viewers how the biblical episode illuminates the guile and cruelty of Milady.
2. Perform scenes from d'Artagnan's coming of age. Indicate what he learns from each event about friendship, loyalty, truth, strategy, courage, love, and self.
3. Improvise a scene in which d'Artagnan returns home wearing a lieutenant's uniform. How would his friends and family react to his rapid rise in the musketeers? What might he confess about his trials and sorrows at the breakup of his friends and Constance's murder? What details of Milady's false love and treachery would he keep from friends and family?
4. Role-play the part of a servant, spy, seaman, groom, innkeeper, messenger, or intelligence gatherer. Explain how the story would change if the duke of Buckingham and Constance Bonacieux had survived. Why does the author downplay the French defeat of the English at the siege of La Rochelle?

Science, Health, and First Aid

1. Make an oral report on post-traumatic shock syndrome. Why do military personnel like the musketeers carry painful memories of their adventures? Which of the four comrades are most likely to suffer? forget? seek forgiveness? profit monetarily? find happiness? abandon swordfighting?
2. Using charts of the human body, explain how stab wounds quickly weaken and kill.

Contrast the deaths of Bernajoux and the duke of Buckingham with those of Constance and Brisemont from poison, Monsieur Bonacieux from unknown causes, and Milady from beheading.

3. Make a chart of advice to medics in the field concerning first aid to the wounded. Explain how first aid has changed since the 17th century. Name items useful in saving lives, for example, compresses, tourniquets, plasma, sulfanilamide, penicillin, gamma globulin, and morphine. Why do musketeers tend to rely on wine as an all-purpose restorative?
4. Summarize the most effective poisons in European history. Include mandragora, henbane, poppy, belladonna, hemlock, datura, digitalis, strychnine, arsenic, lead, and aconite. Base on descriptions, surmise what type of poison Milady carries in her ring.

Geography

1. Make a war map that stresses the weaknesses of La Rochelle during the siege. Compose a guided tour of the site and point out important locations of the opposing forces that reduce 75% of the city to death from slow starvation.
2. Explain in a chalk talk the importance of the English Channel to the history of France and England, particularly the battle of Agincourt, the leadership of Joan of Arc, the rescue at Dunkirk, the siege of La Rochelle, and the Norman invasion of 1066.
3. Create a bulletin board contrasting settings, e. g., Tarbes, Meung, Garcony, Chaillot, Portsmouth, Porte Saint-Antoine, Armentières, Paris, Béthune, For-l'Evêque, La Rochelle, Saint-Valery, Neufchâtel, Saint-Claud, Pontoise, Rouen, Tours, London, the Bastille, Luxembourg, Chantilly, Beauvais, Dover, Pont Neuf, Calais, the Louvre, and Amiens.

Art

1. Using desktop publishing or other media, design murals or posters to contrast these pairs: a ring containing poison/a letter from Anne of Austria, twelve diamond tags/a headsman's sword, a book containing Puritan

worship/a sapphire ring, a handkerchief initialed C. B./a cadet's uniform, a yellow horse/a rope ladder, a royal ball/a wall collapsing in a moat, empty wine bottles/corpses in the Saint-Gervais Bastion, a ship from Portsmouth/a ball at the Louvre, and a goat pen/the Palais de Cardinal.

2. With a group, design a brochure, web site, frieze, or poster series illustrating relationships between people with different wartime experiences and attitudes, particularly Cardinal Richelieu/Anne of Austria, the duke of Buckingham/John Felton, Constance Bonacieux/the abbess of Béthune, Count de Rochefort/d'Artagnan, Louis XIII/Monsieur de Tréville, Madame de Chevreuse/Grimaud, and Milady/Athos.
3. Draw a montage or mural detailing military and equerry uniforms, weapons, artillery, equipment, bandages, banners, and parade gear. Include the king's and the cardinal's honor guards, Grimaud and Mousqueton's livery, the musketeers' new horses, a lieutenant's uniform, saddle braid, muskets and swords, and treatment for stab wounds.
4. List books, stories, movies, videos, art, sculpture, dance, song, and other creativity that depict characters performing a demanding military job, for example, re-enactments of the deaths of El Cid or St. Louis, a statue of Joan of Arc or Henry IV of England, articles on prisoners of war Jeremiah Denton or the Black Prince, the sculpture of flag-raising at Iwo Jima or the Greek Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, French Resistance memorials or the nurses' memorial in Washington, D. C., the movies *Cyrano de Bergerac* or *The Bridge over the River Kwai*, the Vietnam Wall or the Crazy Horse memorial, the musical *Hair* or the play *Les Misérables*, tributes to Cyrus the Great or Alexander the Great, photographs taken by Margaret Bourke-White or Matthew Brady, the hymns "Eternal Father, Strong to Save" or "Non Nobis, Domine," the anthems "God Save the King" or "La Marseillaise," biographies of Saladin or Napoleon, or the folk songs "Trois Beaux Oiseaux du Paradis" and "Where Have All the Flowers Gone?"

Language

1. Using a computer art program, illustrate a gazetteer of allusions and terms from the novel. Include these: halberd, Judas Macabaeus, equerry, Lazarist, Bastille, entourage, For-l'Evêque, Judith and Holofernes, Nestor, sortie, Tours, La Rochelle, Rocinante, saraband, faction, écu, pistole, thesis, equerry, archives, lackey, period piece, Roman de la Rose, seconds, edict, Huguenot, Norman, Samson and Delilah, Richelieu, Calais, Luxembourg, Tower of London, Croesus, ducat, Louvre, Mazarin, Tyburn, corps, Louis XIII, feinted and lunged, Don Quixote, livre, Charles I, breviary, sou, Carmelite, Solomon's judgement, blunderbuss, canon, Jesuit, louis, and gyrfalcon.
2. Draw up a contrasting list of elements that characterize life in the musketeers, including the roles of officers, soldiers, and cadets. Include a time line of military accomplishments under the leadership of Louis XIII and Cardinal Richelieu.

Economics

1. Create non-military jobs for people like body servants, cooks, innkeepers, boatmen, equerries, domestics, reporters, spies, pawn shop owners, and executioners. In a frieze, put their experiences to use, for example, in repairing uniforms and boots, writing war dispatches from the front to the king, bartering for needed foodstuffs and supplies, observing departures from port cities, eavesdropping on the enemy, supplying cash for needed purchases, rehabilitating disabled swordsmen, preparing bodies for burial or for transport to survivors, policing cities from looting, informing citizens of threats to the crown or to Catholicism, or giving directions of troops moving through unknown territory.
2. Total in columns the current cost of outfitting the three musketeers and d'Artagnan. Include the price of horses plus upkeep, hiring valets and grooms, cleaning and restoring harness and saddles, buying powder and shot, purchasing weapons, and laundering and repairing uniforms.
3. Chart the prominent coins of the 17th century, notably, the doubloon, ducat, écu, escudo,

franc, guilder, lira, livre, louis, penny, pistole, sou, thaler, and zecca. Explain how neighboring countries evaluated foreign currencies in terms of their own coinage. Analyze the charge of counterfeit against Athos.

Literature

1. Read aloud passages that capture a single negative feeling, especially cruelty, callousness, eroticism, cruel jest, alienation, disillusion, anger, terror, loss, self-doubt, religious fanaticism, vengeance, greed, or grief. Add details that express how these feelings linger and haunt John Felton, Athos, d'Artagnan, Kitty, Milady, Buckingham, the cardinal, Constance Bonacieux, Anne of Austria, Madame de Coquenard, Count de Rochefort, Monsieur Bonacieux, Planchet, Monsieur de Tréville, Madame de Cheveuse, La Porte, Lord de Winter, and the duke of Buckingham. Why do Athos and d'Artagnan conduct much of their involvement in secret? How do women like Kitty, the abbess, and Constance aid male adventurers? Why is Milady a worthy choice of spy for the cardinal?
2. Read or listen to an audio cassette of Edmond Rostand's *Cyrano de Bergerac* or Alexandre Dumas's *The Count of Monte Cristo*. Compare protagonists to the musketeers in terms of fears, inadequacies, self-knowledge, grudges, over-confidence, and courage. What do these men learn best by experience? Describe the scenes in which each, like d'Artagnan, makes a profound change of heart.
3. Using incidents from the novel, comment on gradual changes in d'Artagnan. Explain how an episodic narrative serves the author in depicting events from varying points of view, particularly Milady's escape from Lord de Winter's prison and her return to Boulogne by chartered ship. How do reactions to her guile vary in d'Artagnan, Kitty, John Felton, de Wardes, de Winter, the abbess, Athos, and the executioner?
4. Draw a Venn diagram or cause-and-effect chart explaining the relationship of d'Artagnan to other characters, both military and civilian, particularly to his father, Monsieur Bonacieux, the cardinal's spies,

Constance Bonacieux, the queen, Milady, Mousqueton, Kitty, Athos, de Tréville, and de Rochefort. Indicate which of d'Artagnan's relationships are false and which honest.

5. Summarize events from *Don Quixote* that reflect the faults and weakness of d'Artagnan.

Social Studies

1. Write a theme, create a web site, or sketch a flow chart describing the numbers of wars that have swept France. Include events caused by France, Spain, Germany, Austria, Italy, and the United States. Add details revealed in the films *Saving Private Ryan*, *Joan of Arc*, *The Count of Monte Cristo*, *All Quiet on the Western Front*, *The Lion in Winter*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, *Becket*, and *Henry V*.
2. Divide the class into small groups to discuss how sieges destroy cities, particularly from internal differences, hunger, treachery, fires, and epidemics. Explain the internal crises in La Rochelle that cause citizens to capitulate to the French.

Religion

1. Summarize in a chalk talk the influence of religion on modern warfare, particularly the enmity between Catholics and Protestant Huguenots and the fanaticism of Calvinists and Puritans. Explain allusions to the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre.
2. Make an oral report on the rise of Cardinal Richelieu to a rival of Louis XIII. Explain the role of a cardinal in religious and political matters. Contrast the cardinal's power with that of Urban VIII, the Pope at Rome during the siege of La Rochelle.

Composition

1. Write an essay, poem, recruiting or combat slogan, eulogy, or the lyrics to a song or hymn in which you express d'Artagnan's rash actions, Athos's leadership, Aramis's idealism, the duke of Buckingham's death, Anne of Austria's influence on her husband, the anguish of the executioner, the cardinal's vengefulness, bribery and spying, the value of two diamond tags, the return of a horse to Madame de Coquenard, or the impressions that musketeers make on civilians.

2. Characterize in a theme the irony of the title. Explain why the author refers to three men rather than to four. Why is the fourth man the focus of the novel?
3. Write an encyclopedia entry on a musketeer's job. Explain how the discovery of armed corpses in the castle enables four musketeers to hold out against large numbers of aggressors. Why is the crumbling wall of value to the musketeers as the enemy approaches the moat?

Cinema

1. Summarize aloud the attitude of several screenwriters of movies about war. Consider *Joan of Arc*, *The Patriot*, *Julia*, *Gods and Generals*, *Pearl Harbor*, *Troy*, *Patton*, *Lawrence of Arabia*, *Henry V*, *All Quiet on the Western Front*, *The Fall of the Roman Empire*, *Gallipoli*, *The Killing Fields*, *Geronimo*, *A Farewell to Arms*, *Taras Bulba*, *Gone with the Wind*, *Becket*, *Saving Private Ryan*, *We Were Soldiers*, *El Cid*, *Blackhawk Down*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, *The Sand Pebbles*, *A Town Like Alice*, *Alexander*, *Windtalkers*, *Robin Hood*, and *Good Morning, Vietnam*. Contrast several plots with Alexandre Dumas's approach to war themes and situations, for example, leisurely drinking and dining during an enemy approach, recovery from a sword thrust to the chest, dueling over personal insults, spying on a queen, stealing or forging letters, jeering at enemies, posting lookouts, seeking vengeance, commissioning an officer, buying horses and equipment, and guarding the king and cardinal. Suggest reasons for Dumas's depiction of little full-scale combat in favor of man-to-man fighting.

Journalism

1. Compose a list of questions to accompany a televised interview with people in a war zone. Balance questions and answers to give civilians a fair, unbiased view of day-to-day activities and combat demands, including communicating with citizens in La Rochelle, plotting to kill the duke of Buckingham, circulating lookouts and dispatches, sending honor guards to accompany Louis XIII, imprisoning a civilian in the Bastille, and executing a spy.

2. Discuss in an editorial how insiders and opportunists like Monsieur Bonacieux, Milady, Madame de Cheveuse, Mousqueton, and de Rochefort can be useful in peace-time and during a siege.
3. Set up an interview with Cardinal Richelieu. Determine why he is effective in politics and how he manipulates Louis XIII with doubts about the loyalty of Anne of Austria. Question the cardinal about his commissioning of Lieutenant d'Artagnan.

Psychology

1. Discuss in a short speech the effects of psychological warfare on the people of La Rochelle. What physical and mental coercions hurry the conclusion of the siege? Why are Huguenots and Calvinists unsuccessful in establishing themselves politically in France?
2. Explain why film versions of *The Three Musketeers* stress camaraderie and carefree rowdiness rather than d'Artagnan's grief, Aramis's religious dilemmas, Pothos's ambitions, and Athos's vengeance toward an unfaithful wife.
3. Make a web site or bulletin board on the destructive nature of revenge. Explain why characters like Athos and the headsman carry the scars of Milady's treachery and how they relieve their hatred of her.

Alternate Assessment

1. List examples of cruelty, lust, deceit, revenge, and violence in various characters, for example, John Felton's murder of the duke of Buckingham, Brisemont's death by poison, collapse of a wall in a moat, Kitty's seduction of d'Artagnan, rowdy behavior in de Tréville's anteroom, the duke of Buckingham's romance with Anne of Austria, the arrest and imprisonment of Monsieur Bonacieux, the beheading of Milady, the forged letter, flight from Lord de Winter's prison, hymn singing in the cell, the cardinal's dossier, kidnap of a woman from a cottage, and the executioner's hatred of Milady.

2. Compile a list of actions that demonstrate alienation, tension, and emotional unease, particularly Aramis's study with Jesuits, Constance Bonacieux's request for Milady's advice, the king's suspicions about his wife's lover, d'Artagnan's duels with the three musketeers, the approach of workmen and soldiers to the bastion, d'Artagnan's refusal of a place in Richelieu's honor guard, and the siege at La Rochelle.
3. Compose a scene in which d'Artagnan returns home. Describe his parents' welcome and their questions about his rapid rise from cadet to lieutenant. Include commentary on corruption at court and in the church.
4. Make a character list and explain the character flaws of each, including Richelieu's spying, Brisemont's anger, Monsieur Bonacieux's duplicity, d'Artagnan's immaturity, Monsieur de Tréville's inability to keep order among the musketeers, Count de Rochefort's stalking, John Felton's religious fanaticism, Milady's guile, and the duke of Buckingham's love of a married woman.
5. Analyze the significance of these images: empty wine bottles in a cellar, a 13-year-old yellow horse, military braid on a saddle, poison in a ring, a rosewood jewelry box, two diamond tags, a cadet's uniform, a wave of a hand from a carriage window, eavesdropping on Monsieur Bonacieux, a garden with a locked gate, a dark cottage, and a lover's meeting with Milady in a dark room.

Vocabulary

Choose from the answers below the correct term to replace the under lined word in each statement:

campaign, cavalcade, dais, diabolical, effrontery, embellishments, expiate, faltering, feint, hindrance, image, intoxicating, languid, licentious, misanthropic, municipal, ostentatious, parry, peerage, provisionally, provost, ruffians, semblance, taint, ungallant, wary

1. I admire your boldness _____.
2. She was more than attractive, she was exciting _____.
3. If I'm happy because of an illusion _____, don't be cruel enough to take it away from me.
4. The box would only be a burden _____ to you.
5. His words were few but expressive; he always said exactly what he meant and nothing more, with no decorations _____, frills, or embroidery.
6. The officer in command of the Croix-Rouge post was summoned, and inquiries revealed that Athos was being temporarily _____ held in the For-l'Evêque.
7. Only then did d'Artagnan remember her dreamy _____ glances, his meetings with her in the anteroom, on the stairs, and in the hall, her stifled sighs, and the way she had brushed her hand against him each time she passed him.
8. What rascals _____ those musketeers are!
9. I hadn't been able to defend myself with the knife, but at least I could use it to redress _____ my dishonor.
10. All four will be fully equipped for a crusade _____.
11. Milady pursed her lips two or three times in the course of the conversation; it had become plain to her that she was dealing with a suspicious _____ opponent.
12. The little procession _____ had a formidable appearance.
13. "Allow me to point out to you, sir," Aramis interrupted, "that your conduct just now was discourteous _____."
14. That man was Monsieur Bonacieux, a respectable victim of the amorous and political intrigue so common in a time that was both chivalrous and immoral _____.
15. She found Monsieur Bonacieux alone, trying to restore some appearance _____ of order to the house.

Comprehension Test A

Part I: Character Identification (30 points)

Name the characters who fit these descriptions.

- _____ 1. rides like Don Quixote on Rocinante
- _____ 2. carries a box back to England bearing instructions
- _____ 3. writes a thesis
- _____ 4. complains that his soldiers embarrassed him before Richelieu's body guard
- _____ 5. scolds de Tréville for allowing soldiers to brawl in the street
- _____ 6. serves d'Artagnan as valet
- _____ 7. makes d'Artagnan a cadet
- _____ 8. is a landlord and a draper
- _____ 9. romances the duke of Buckingham
- _____ 10. abducts Constance
- _____ 11. uses Constance as an intermediary with the queen
- _____ 12. accuses Athos of passing counterfeit coins
- _____ 13. wears twelve diamond tags
- _____ 14. becomes a Lazarist
- _____ 15. hangs a branded woman

Part II: Fact or Opinion (20 points)

Mark the following statements either T for true or O for opinion.

- _____ 1. Constance declares to d'Artagnan that the draper is trustworthy.
- _____ 2. Madame de Coquenard is in love with her brother-in-law, Lord de Winter.
- _____ 3. At the goat pen behind the Luxembourg, d'Artagnan spares de Winter.
- _____ 4. Madame de Coquenard agrees to buy a horse and mule for Porthos and Mousqueton.
- _____ 5. The sapphire ring is an heirloom of Athos's family.
- _____ 6. Kitty conceals her love for d'Artagnan.
- _____ 7. A tear on the negligee reveals a fleur-de-lis.
- _____ 8. Athos chooses to pawn the ring to buy equipment.
- _____ 9. At the Chaillot road, Constance blows a kiss from a cottage window.
- _____ 10. Richelieu reveals a dossier on Count de Wardes's actions.

Comprehension Test A (Page 2)

Part III: Location Identification (20 points)

Name the place described below:

- _____ 1. last bastion of Calvinism
- _____ 2. opens on Milady's boudoir
- _____ 3. Constance's death scene
- _____ 4. scene of Athos's confrontation with his former wife
- _____ 5. where the musketeers eat breakfast while soldiers approach
- _____ 6. where the musketeers conspire with Marie Michon
- _____ 7. where Felton guards the door
- _____ 8. where the duke of Buckingham dies of stab wounds
- _____ 9. where Milady uses a key to escape
- _____ 10. where the headsman rows Milady to the execution site

Part IV: Essay Questions (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

- 1. Discuss the musketeers' attitude toward risk
- 2. Describe various close calls involving d'Artagnan and Milady.
- 3. Account for d'Artagnan's rapid rise from cadet to lieutenant.
- 4. Contrast the deaths of Constance, Buckingham, Brisemont, and Milady.
- 5. Summarize events that depict Athos as a victim of deception.

Comprehension Test B

Part I: Identification and Analysis (30 points)

Identify speakers of quotations and explain the significance of each.

- _____ 1. Madame, will you tell me why you're not wearing your diamond tags?
- _____ 2. I thought I killed you the first time you crossed my path, but either I was mistaken or the devil resurrected you.
- _____ 3. I'll need time to cut through the bars with my file.
- _____ 4. I must ask you for advice. You have more experience than I do. Please tell me what I should do.
- _____ 5. I have a miraculous ointment for wounds.

Part II: Short Answer (20 points)

Provide an answer to each of these questions:

- _____ 1. Who orders replacements for the diamond tags?
- _____ 2. What sells for 7,000 livres?
- _____ 3. Who has the key to the convent garden?
- _____ 4. Who was a nun at Templemar?
- _____ 5. Who signs d'Artagnan's pardon?
- _____ 6. Who becomes a Lazarist?
- _____ 7. Who surrenders on October 28, 1628?
- _____ 8. Who murders the duke of Buckingham?
- _____ 9. How old is d'Artagnan when he leaves home?
- _____ 10. Who tells d'Artagnan that he must prove himself?

Comprehension Test B (Page 2)

Part III: Fill-in (20 points)

Fill in the words that complete each statement.

1. _____ chastises d'Artagnan for rudely bumping into him and suggests a _____ at noon.
2. Before the d'Aiguillon mansion, d'Artagnan quarrels with _____ over a lady's _____.
3. De Tréville recommends to _____ d'Artagnan as the _____ of an old friend.
4. Before a noon audience with the king at the _____, d'Artagnan faces _____ of the cardinal's guard.
5. After the king awards d'Artagnan 40 _____, the youth shares them with the _____.

Part IV: Essay Questions (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Explain why war seems secondary in importance to the musketeers' loves and personal adventures.
2. Why does John Felton disobey Count de Winter?
3. How does Athos reveal sorrow and mental unrest?
4. Discuss the odds of winning the fight at the Saint-Gervais Bastion.
5. Describe Milady's crimes.

Answer Key

VOCABULARY

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1. effrontery | 6. provisionally | 11. wary |
| 2. intoxicating | 7. languid | 12. cavalcade |
| 3. image | 8. ruffians | 13. ungallant |
| 4. hindrance | 9. expiate | 14. licentious |
| 5. embellishments | 10. campaign | 15. semblance |

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Character Identification (30 points)

- | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. d'Artagnan | 6. Planchet | 11. Madame de Chevreuse |
| 2. Milady | 7. Louis XIII | 12. innkeeper |
| 3. Aramis | 8. Bonacieux | 13. Anne of Austria |
| 4. de Tréville | 9. Anne of Austria | 14. Aramis |
| 5. Louis XIII | 10. de Rochefort | 15. Athos |

Part II: Fact or Opinion (20 points)

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

Part III: Location Identification (20 points)

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. La Rochelle | 6. Tours |
| 2. Kitty's room | 7. Milady's cell |
| 3. Carmelite convent | 8. Portsmouth |
| 4. an inn gate | 9. convent garden |
| 5. Saint-Gervais Bastion | 10. Lys |

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Identification and Analysis (30 points)

1. Louis XIII
2. Athos
3. John Felton
4. Constance Bonacieux
5. d'Artagnan

Part II: Short Answer (30 points)

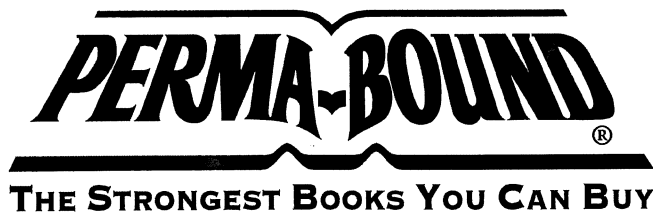
- | | |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Buckingham | 6. Aramis |
| 2. sapphire ring | 7. citizens of La Rochelle |
| 3. Milady | 8. John Felton |
| 4. Milady | 9. 18 |
| 5. Richelieu | 10. de Tréville |

Part III: Fill-in (20 points)

1. Athos, duel
2. Aramis, handkerchief
3. Louis XIII, son
4. Louvre, Bernajoux
5. pistoles, musketeers

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.



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