TIMELESS CLASSICS
STUDY GUIDE

THE *Count* OF *Monte Cristo*

Alexandre Dumas

Saddleback Educational Publishing

SADDLEBACK
EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHING

Contents

NOTES TO THE TEACHER

THE NOVELS

Timeless Classics were expressly designed to help struggling readers gain access to some of the world's greatest literature. While retaining the essence and stylistic "flavor" of the original, each novel has been expertly adapted to a reading level that never exceeds grade 4.0.

An ideal introduction to later investigations of the original works, *Timeless Classics* utilize a number of strategies to ensure the involvement of struggling readers: airy, uncomplicated page design; shortened sentences; easy-reading type style; elimination of archaic words and spellings; shortened total book length; and handsome illustrations.

To further engage struggling readers, some of our *Timeless Classics* titles are available in a new and exciting graphic format, which can bridge literacies and build complex reading skills—a perfect opportunity for differentiation.

THE STUDY GUIDES

The *Timeless Classics Study Guides* provide a wealth of reproducible support materials to help students extend the learning experience. Features include critical background notes on both the author and the times, character descriptions, chapter summaries, and eight "universal" exercises that may be used for any *Timeless Classic* or *Saddleback Illustrated Classic*.

In addition to the universal exercises, 26 title-specific activities are included to review, test, or enrich the student's grasp of important vocabulary and concepts. These reproducible worksheets are designed to be used chapter-by-chapter as the student's reading of the novel proceeds. At least two exercises are provided for each book chapter. One of the two always focuses on key vocabulary. The other may be a simple comprehension check or present an important literary concept.

Research shows that the most effective way to improve comprehension is to teach students strategies. The foundation of any comprehension strategy requires knowledge of the skills found in these activities including: main idea, noting details, drawing conclusions, finding the sequence, cause and effect, making inferences, and more. A two-page final exam is also included in every *Timeless Classics Study Guide*.

USING THE STUDY GUIDES

Before assigning any of the reproducible exercises, be sure your students each have a personal copy of the *Glossary* and the *Facts About the Author* and *About the Times.* By organizing the reading process in this way, you will be able to set a purpose for reading and activate prior knowledge. The *Facts About the Author* and *About the Times* lend themselves to any number of writing or research projects you may wish to assign. To further preview the novel, you may wish to review the *Facts About the Characters.* Students will also need to be familiar with many of the literary terms in order to complete the worksheets.

The title-specific exercises may be used as a springboard for class discussions and role-playing. Alternatively, you may wish to assign some exercises as homework and others during the closing minutes of a class period.

All exercises in this Guide are designed to accommodate independent study as well as group work. The occasional assignment of study partners or competitive teams often enhances interest and promotes creativity. Oral language activities, such as paraphrasing or summarizing a part of the story, provide an intervention opportunity to strengthen oral language skills and, in turn, strengthen reading skills.

ALEXANDRE DUMAS
(1802 –1870)

The French novelist and dramatist Alexandre Dumas was born in 1802, the son of a general in Napoleon's army. Although his plots have been criticized as "melodramatic" and his writing style as "careless," readers still enjoy the colorful characters and exciting action in his stories.

Because of his tremendous literary output—nearly 300 volumes—Dumas was somewhat of a legend in his own time. How was he able to produce such a great volume of work? He hired several collaborators to search through the works of earlier memoir writers for exciting plots. He cheerfully called these writing assistants his "factory" and paid no attention at all to those who criticized him for pilfering the work of others.

Today, Dumas's best-known works are his historical romances: *The Count of Monte Cristo*, *The Three Musketeers*, and *The Black Tulip*. In France, Dumas is still noted for his plays, *Henri III et sa cour* and *Napoléon Bonaparte*.

FACTS ABOUT THE TIMES

In 1802, when Alexandre Dumas was born . . .

Thomas Jefferson was the president of the United States…the population of New York topped 60,000 for the first time… Napoleon became president of the Italian Republic.

In 1844, when *The Count of Monte Cristo* was published . . .

The YMCA was founded in England… wood-pulp paper was invented… Elizabeth Barrett Browning published *Poems*…in Norway, people began to ski as a sport for the first time.

In 1870, when Alexandre Dumas died . . .

John D. Rockefeller founded the Standard Oil Company…Confederate General Robert E. Lee and English novelist Charles Dickens died…Jules Verne's *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* was published.

FACTS ABOUT THE CHARACTERS

A young man imprisoned for years because of a jealous plot; later, as the Count of Monte Cristo, he wreaks revenge on those who wronged him

MONSIEUR MORREL

Owner of the *Pharaon*; a faithful friend to Edmond Dantes

DANGLARS

Ship's purser on the *Pharaon*; co-conspirator against Dantes; later, he becomes Baron Danglars and steals his own bank's money

CAPTAIN LECLERE

Captain of the *Pharaon* who dies at sea

NAPOLEON

Deposed Emperor of France; exiled on Elba, he plots his return to power

KING LOUIS XVIII

King of France

CADEROUSSE

Greedy false friend of Dantes; a coward and a murderer

MERCEDES HERRERA

Dantes' fiancée; later, married to Fernand Mondego

FERNAND MONDEGO

Jealous conspirator against Dantes; later, becomes Count de Morcerf and marries Mercedes

GERARD DE VILLEFORT

Ambitious young prosecutor who imprisons Dantes to protect his father; husband first of Renee and then of Heloise

NOIRTIER

Villefort's father and Valentine's grandfather; a supporter of Napoleon

FATHER FARIA

Elderly priest imprisoned with Dantes; he tells Dantes about the treasure hidden on the Isle of Monte Cristo

ALBERT DE MORCERF

Son of Mercedes and Fernand; later, kidnapped by Luigi Vampa and rescued by the Count of Monte Cristo

FRANZ D'EPINAY

Albert's friend who is engaged to Valentine

LUIGI VAMPA

Italian bandit; Albert's kidnapper

HAYDEE

Greek orphan rescued by Edmond from slavery; the daughter of Ali Pasha, a Greek leader, she is in love with the Count of Monte Cristo

HELOISE DE VILLEFORT

Greedy second wife of Gerard de Villefort; a murderer

VALENTINE

Villefort's daughter; she is in love with Maximilian Morrel

MAXIMILIAN MORREL

Son of Dantes' friend; the owner of the *Pharaon*

BENEDETTO

A young criminal who is the illegitimate son of Villefort; later, called Andrea Cavalcanti, he murders Caderousse

EUGENIE

Danglars' daughter who is engaged to Andrea Cavalcanti

CHAPTER 1

After the *Pharaon*'s captain dies at sea, the ship's owner, Monsieur Morrel, appoints young Edmond Dantes to be captain. Danglars, the jealous ship's purser who had hoped to be captain, is furious. Then Dantes has a joyous reunion with his fiancée, Mercedes Herrera, and meets Fernand Mondego, who is secretly in love with Mercedes. When the happy couple announce their upcoming wedding, the two jealous men join Caderousse, a greedy neighbor of Dantes, in a plot to falsely accuse Dantes of being Napoleon's secret agent.

CHAPTER 2

An anonymous letter of accusation causes the police to arrest Dantes at his betrothal feast. Monsieur Morrel, certain of Dantes' innocence, tries to defend him. But Gerard de Villefort, the prosecutor, discovers that he would have to imprison his own father, the true secret agent, if he lets Dantes go. Dantes is imprisoned in the Chateau d'If.

CHAPTER 3

Dantes spends many years in prison, completely cut off from the outside world. He has no idea that Napoleon and his followers regained power but then were defeated at Waterloo. Nor does he know that Fernand is courting Mercedes and his father has died. At last, he loses all hope of release.

CHAPTER 4

A fellow prisoner, Father Faria, secretly digs a tunnel into Dantes' cell. The old priest befriends Dantes and educates him as they join in a plan of escape. In the meantime, Dantes tells the priest his story, and Father Faria tells him that Villefort, the son of the real secret agent, is responsible for his imprisonment. For the first time, Dantes realizes who must have sent the accusing letter. His heart is filled with bitter revenge.

When Father Faria becomes too ill to carry out their plan, he kindly gives Dantes information about a great treasure hidden on the Isle of Monte Cristo. Then Father Faria dies, and Dantes takes his place in the burial bag. He is thrown into the sea by prison guards who think he is the old priest.

CHAPTER 5

After swimming ashore, Dantes witnesses the wreck of a fishing boat. Pretending to be the lone surviving fisherman, he signals a passing ship and is taken on as a crewmember. He finds out that the captain and his crew are smugglers and bides his time until they visit the Isle of Monte Cristo. There, he feigns an injury and is left behind to find the hidden treasure.

CHAPTER 6

Disguised as a priest, Dantes visits Caderousse, the first step in his plan of revenge. Pretending that Dantes is dead, Edmond gives Caderousse a diamond to be shared among Dantes' friends. Caderousse admits the plot against Dantes, but minimizes his own involvement. He also says that Danglars and Fernand are now wealthy—and that Fernand has married Mercedes. Further, he says that Dantes' father is dead and that Monsieur Morrel,

LITERARY GLOSSARY

action what happens in a story; the acts or events that take place

> **The war story was full of battle action.**

author the writer of a book, story, article, etc.

> **Ernest Hemingway was an American author.**

author's purpose the author's specific goal or reason for writing a certain book

> **In that novel, the author's purpose was to make readers laugh.**

character a fictional person who plays a part in a story or novel

> **Long John Silver is an important character in *Treasure Island*.**

classic excellent artwork, novel, painting, symphony, etc. that remains popular over many years

> **Norman Mailer's *The Naked and the Dead* has become an American classic**

climax the outcome of the novel's main conflict

> **The capture of the criminal was the climax of the detective story.**

conclusion the resolution of all plot conflicts, bringing the story to a close

> **That play's conclusion was very satisfying. Every conflict was resolved.**

conflict The struggle between characters or forces at the center of the story

> **The conflict was resolved when the suspect confessed.**

description the parts of a story or novel that tell about the appearance of the setting or characters

> **His description of the Alps was breathtaking.**

dialogue words spoken by the characters in a novel, story, or play

> **The dialogue in that comedy is very witty and amusing.**

effect in literature, an impression created by the writer

> **Murder mysteries often create a suspenseful, chilling effect.**

event a specific occurrence; something that happens

> **A plane crash is the first event in that adventure novel.**

fiction a literary work in which the plot and characters are the products of the author's imagination

> **Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* is a popular work of fiction.**

figurative language colorful wording not meant to be taken literally, but to form a colorful, sharp picture in the mind

> **A "screaming" headline may be set in large type, but it makes no sound at all.**

imagery figures of speech that help the reader to visualize the characters or setting; pictures in words

> **In Stephen Crane's imagery, the color of blood suggests courage.**

introduction a short reading that presents and explains a novel; sometimes the first part of a novel that sets the scene

> **The introduction to *Frankenstein* is in the form of a letter.**

mood the overall feeling or atmosphere the author creates in a story or novel

> **The author's skillful use of language created a dismal, hopeless mood.**

moral the instructive point of a story or novel; the lesson to be drawn by the reader

> **The moral of the story is to choose your friends carefully.**
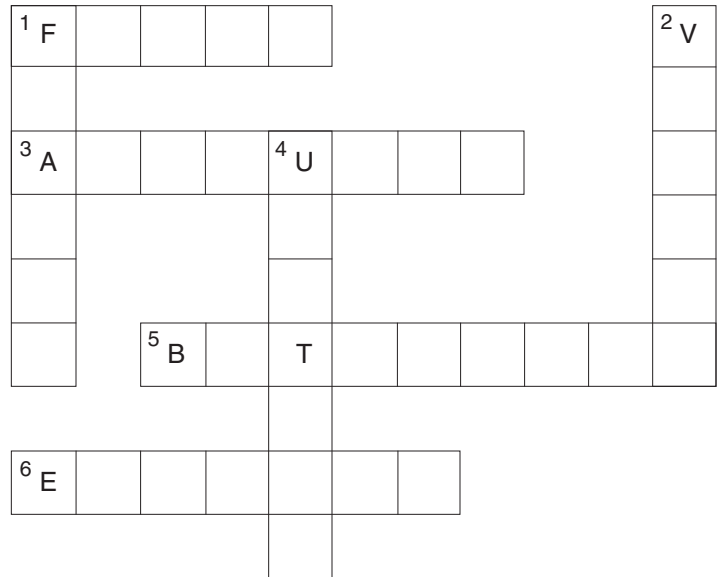
WORDS AND MEANINGS

NAME _____   DATE _____

A. Use the clues to complete the crossword puzzle.

ACROSS

1. Captain Leclere had died of ___.

3. As the purser, Danglars kept the ship's ___.

5. Mercedes and Edmond had planned a ___ feast.

6. Napoleon was the former ___ of France.

DOWN

1. Edmond gave his father 200 ___.

2. The *Pharaon* was a three-masted sailing ___.

4. Caderousse and Danglars thought Dantes was a lucky ___.

B. You know that *synonyms* are words that share the same or almost the same meaning. Unscramble the synonyms of the **boldfaced** puzzle words.

1. **PISH** _____ is a synonym of **vessel**.

2. **NEGENTEAMG** _____ is a synonym of **betrothal**.

C. Write a letter to match each puzzle word with its definition.

1. _____ **emperor**   a. records of business dealings

2. _____ **francs**   b. elevated body temperature

3. _____ **upstart**   c. ruler of an empire

4. _____ **fever**   d. person who has recently become important

5. _____ **accounts**   e. the French equivalent of dollars

NAME _____ DATE _____

A. Unscramble the names of the characters.

NOMDED   SATEND _____

GALSNARD _____

RISENOUM   MORLER _____

SOUREDACES _____

DRENFAN   NOMDOGE _____

CREEMSED _____

PAINTAC   ERLEECL _____

NOOPNALE _____

B. Write a character's name to correctly complete each sentence. You will use each name only once.

1. _____ rowed out to meet the *Pharaon*.

2. _____ was now living on the Isle of Elba.

3. _____ introduced Edmond to Fernand Mondego.

4. _____ asked that a package be delivered to Marshal Bertrand.

5. _____ took command when Captain Leclere died.

6. _____ was suspicious when Dantes visited Elba.

7. _____ was secretly in love with Mercedes Herrera.

8. _____ demanded that Edmond's father pay off his debt.

NAME _____   DATE _____

A. Circle the hidden words.
They may go up, down,
across, backward, or
diagonally. Check off each
word as you find it.

P	E	S	L	M	O	D	E	S	T	L	Y	N	B
L	R	N	A	S	I	V	N	W	D	Q	F	G	M
O	P	O	F	D	N	G	J	E	K	S	E	R	T
T	U	I	S	P	N	A	S	W	R	T	A	I	H
C	Z	T	A	E	O	U	E	Q	P	M	O	C	Y
N	B	C	M	K	C	O	J	H	B	G	R	S	D
F	L	E	K	C	E	U	E	I	D	A	J	H	C
P	K	N	A	M	N	C	T	B	N	E	W	O	V
S	D	N	F	B	T	I	X	O	A	G	E	N	T
C	M	O	E	I	O	P	M	N	R	E	V	A	T
W	E	C	R	U	C	A	R	R	I	A	G	E	N
O	M	B	S	S	T	S	I	L	A	Y	O	R	Y

__ PLOT   __ AGENT

__ MONARCH   __ TAVERN

__ INNOCENT   __ MODESTLY

__ CARRIAGE   __ AMBITIOUS

__ ACCUSED   __ PROSECUTOR

__ ROYALISTS   __ CONNECTIONS

B. Use puzzle words to complete the sentences.

1. The betrothal feast was being held in the _____.

2. Villefort, the official _____ of Marseilles, was an
   _____ young lawyer.

3. Monsieur Morrel was certain that Dantes was _____.

4. The _____ at Villefort's party raised their glasses in salute to
   their _____.

5. Dantes had been _____ of being a secret
   _____ for Napoleon.

6. Villefort thought that Napoleon's supporters had made a
   _____ to dethrone the king.

7. Danglars nodded _____ when Monsieur Morrel asked him
   to take command of the *Pharaon*.