

NEW COVENANT schools

Summer Reading List: Grade 10

All 10th grade students are to read *The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexandre Dumas. **The Bantam Classic abridged edition is required** in order to answer the study questions. Other abridgements may not have the needed passages. The school library has copies that students may use and keep. Study questions are attached, and students must turn in answers to these questions on the first day of school.

In addition, all 10th grade students are encouraged to read one or more of the following books:

The Scarlet Pimpernel by Baroness Orczy

Don Quixote by Miguel de Cervantes

(all of Part 1; Chapters 1-15 & 58-end of Part 2)

The Three Musketeers by Alexandre Dumas (abridged version)

Students will receive extra credit and house points for reading any of these books if a short summary of the book is turned in at the beginning of the school year. Any student who reads **all** of the books will be eligible to receive a gift certificate for Givens Books.

Please email Mr. Forshey at jforshey@newcovenantschools.org if you have questions about this assignment.

French terms which may be helpful:

franc = basic unit of money

sou = a small coin (pronounced “soo”)

au revoir = farewell

chateau = castle or large house

carnival = Mardi Gras celebration before the beginning of Lent, characterized by wild singing and dancing in the streets.

Bonapartist = supported of Napoleon Bonaparte, emperor of France and conqueror of Europe until his imprisonment on the island of Elba in 1815, after which he escaped briefly and retook France (Court of the Hundred Days), finally being defeated at the Battle of Waterloo.

Marseilles (pronounced “mar-SAY”) = seaport on the southern coast of France

breviary = a book containing prayers and hymns

monsieur = mister (title of address for a gentleman)

Reading Comprehension Questions

Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper (handwritten or typed). Complete sentences are not required. This assignment is due the first day of school.

A. As you read, list the family members of each of the following characters, indicating their relationships to each other and to other major characters and their occupations or positions in society:

1. Danglars
2. Nortier/Villefort
3. Mondego/Morcerf

B. Briefly answer each question:

1. What reasons do Danglars and Fernand Mondego have for envying Edmond Dantes?
2. Why does Villefort have Dantes thrown into prison when he knows Edmond is innocent?
3. After planning to starve himself to death, why does Dantes begin eating again?
4. Specifically, where does Dantes find the treasure?
5. What is one clue to identify the priest who visits Caderousse as being Dantes?
6. How does the Count of Monte Cristo (Dantes) rescue Mercedes' son Albert? What does Albert agree to do in return?
7. Who is Benedetto?
8. How has Monte Cristo survived being poisoned several times? Who seems to be very interested in poisons?
9. What is the relationship between Villefort, Madame Danglars, and Andrea Cavalcanti (Benedetto)?
10. How does Danglars lose 700,000 francs?
11. Why doesn't Franz d'Epinay marry Valentine?
12. Why is Valentine accused of murder?
13. Why does Albert challenge Monte Cristo to a duel? Why doesn't the duel take place?
14. What does Monte Cristo give Mercedes? What becomes of Fernand Mondego?
15. How does Monte Cristo protect Valentine?
16. Why does the count tell Maximilien who he really is?
17. When does Edmond realize he has taken vengeance too far?
18. What erases the doubts Edmond was having about the rightness of his actions?
19. Why was the method of punishing Danglars by starvation an appropriate revenge from Monte Cristo's point of view?
20. Why would the count say his marriage to Haydee is both a reward and a punishment?