

NEW COVENANT schools

Summer Reading List: Grade 10

All tenth-grade students are required to read *The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexandre Dumas, the Bantam Classics abridged edition (other abridgements may not have the needed passages). This book was handed out at the end of ninth grade, and it is for students to use and keep. Students are encouraged to read over the comprehension questions below before beginning the book and to annotate in their books to help answer the questions accurately.

Answers to the questions will be turned in on the first day of school. They may be typed or neatly handwritten.

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

The Last of the Mohicans by James Fennimore Cooper

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 additional books will receive a gift certificate to Givens Bookstore.

Please email Mrs. Arango at jarango@newcovenantschools.org if you have any questions.

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)

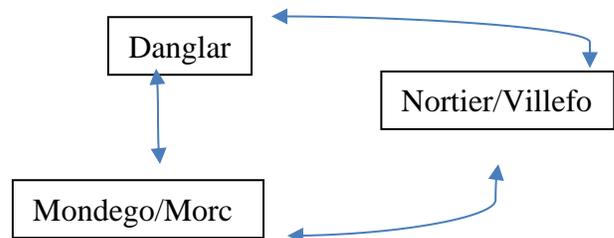
Reading Comprehension Questions

Directions: Respond to each question after reading the required sections of Alexander Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo*. I strongly encourage you to read the questions before you begin reading the novel. Annotate as you read to ensure accuracy.

Each response should be one paragraph (5-7 sentences) in length, unless otherwise noted, and answer each part of the question. Use specific details from your reading in your responses. Page number indications strongly encouraged.

1. As you read, list the family members of each of the following characters, indicating their relationships to each other and to other characters and their occupations or positions in society. Consider designing a character map for clarity.

- a. Danglars
- b. Nortier/Villefort
- c. Mondego/Morcerf



2. Discuss the relationship between Dantès and Abbé Faria. How does Abbe teach Dantès about life and education, in general? What does Dantès learn directly and indirectly from Abbé? Use this quote from the novel for application: “Learning does not make one learned: there are those who have knowledge and those who have understanding. The first requires memory and the second philosophy.”

3. Dantès takes on three significant disguises after his prison sentence expires. Explain each disguise and its purpose in furthering the plotline. Consider imitating the chart below:

Disguise	Explanation	Purpose for Plot

4. Explain how the following quote proves true throughout the entirety of the novel. Give three specific instances where we see this realization experienced. “There is neither happiness nor misery in the world; there is only the comparison of one state with another, nothing more.”
5. One central issue in *The Count of Monte Cristo* is the search for balance between retribution and justice. Many times, Dantès struggles with finding the balance between these two concepts. Does Dantès ever feel fully justified in the novel? How does the author bring the audience to the realization of “hope in waiting”?
6. Discuss whether you believe Dantès to be a hero or a villain. Does he transform from one to the other through the novel? Does your response change once he is titled the Count of Monte Cristo? Explain.
7. “The sins of the fathers must be visited on subsequent generations.” How does this phrase about generational sin undergo a dramatic reversal in the novel? Use the experiences of three specific characters to support your response.
8. Two types of debt are evident throughout the novel: monetary debt and emotional debt (i.e., debt of gratitude). How do the various characters in the novel try to resolve (or repay) each type of debt? Can one ever fully repay an emotional debt? Give one specific example of each to support your reasoning.