

**Summer Reading Assignment**  
**10<sup>th</sup> Grade World Literature**  
**Timothy Christian School**

**Read: *The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexander Dumas (Bantam Edition preferred)**

**Background:** A popular bestseller since its publication in 1844, *The Count of Monte Cristo* is one of the great page-turning thrillers of all time. Set against the tumultuous years of the post-Napoleonic era, Alexandre Dumas's grand historical romance recounts the swashbuckling adventures of Edmond Dantès, a dashing young sailor falsely accused of treason. The story of his long imprisonment, dramatic escape, and carefully wrought revenge offers up a vision of France that has become immortal. As Robert Louis Stevenson declared, "I do not believe there is another volume extant where you can breathe the same unmingled atmosphere of romance."

**Directions:** Complete Task #1 (Double Entry Journal) and Task #2 (Thematic Essay)

**TASK #1:** Write a double entry journal featuring a quotation and analysis from each chapter of the story. Focus on choosing and analyzing quotations that reveal aspects of Edmond Dantès's personality and development as a character. You may also mention how literary elements (such as repetition, irony, foreshadowing, motif, tone, etc.) are employed to contribute to the effect of the story, but focus on how elements contribute to our understanding of Dantès's sense of feelings, beliefs, and purpose. Use a two-column table with a separate row for each chapter. For example:

"He was a tall, slender young man, no more than twenty years old, with dark eyes and hair as black as ebony. His whole manner gave evidence of that calmness and resolution peculiar to those who have been accustomed to facing danger ever since their childhood" (1).	In chapter one, Dumas establishes Edmond Dantès by using direct characterization, linking his personal features to his demeanor to contrast the idea that his youth might suggest immaturity. Though twenty years old, Dantès is described as someone with "calmness and resolution," allowing the reader to see him as a respectable figure while building intrigue about his exploits.
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**Tips:** In your analysis, avoid saying "In this quotation, Dantès..."; rather, follow the example above which follows my ATP method (Author, Text, Purpose) by mentioning the **author**, identifying short details or words from the **text**, and suggesting the **purpose** of his choices in diction, setting, and characterization (What meaning might he be conveying? Why might he be constructing the text in a particular way?)

**TASK #2:** In a well-developed five paragraph essay of not less than four pages, write an essay in which you introduce a thematic statement of the *Count of Monte Cristo*. Think of this as the moral lesson the work is attempting to convey. What is the author saying about a particular course of action— for example, is revenge ever justified? What is justice? Or even, does revenge bring resolution? In each of your body paragraphs, open with a claim related to the thesis, cite evidence to support your claim, and provide analysis about what Dumas is trying to convey. Close by summarizing your argument and providing lasting thoughts on the work and its message. Use MLA formatting and avoid first and second person pronouns.