



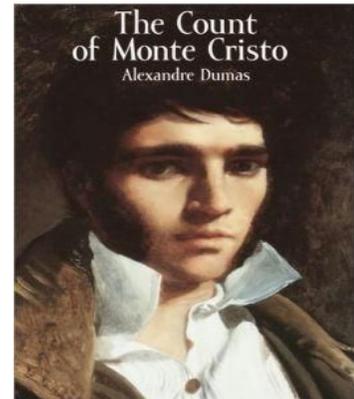
In Conroe ISD, we encourage all students to read over the summer in order to enrich learning and provoke thought. Summer reading strengthens reading skills, increases academic achievement, fosters a love for reading, and empowers students to become lifelong learners. Additionally, students who enroll in a Pre AP or AP English course are expected to engage in summer reading as it prepares students for the upcoming school year and creates an initial common framework for classroom discussion and instruction.

Pre-AP English I Summer Reading Assignment: Oak Ridge Ninth Grade
The Count of Monte Cristo (translated and abridged)
Bantam Classic published by Bantam Dell by Alexandre Dumas

Dear future students!

*We have carefully chosen this book as your summer reading assignment because it is a **timeless and powerful** story filled with **romance** and **vengeance** that we hope you will enjoy. This book prepares you to be successful in English 1 as we will be discussing aspects of the story and using the book to come up with ideas for your own writing.*

Please borrow or purchase this specific publication of *The Count of Monte Cristo*. Since it has been translated and abridged, other versions may vary dramatically. This book can be purchased online through Amazon, at a local bookstore, or borrowed from the library. Since the book is a classic, it will be readily available.



Your task is to **read** the novel: *feel* strongly about the characters, *predict* their futures, *question* their motives, and *love* the story, in order to **collect your own ideas and supporting evidence** about the following 8 items from the novel.

1. Which characters best exemplify the idea of true love?
2. What events does the author use to build suspense? List 3 or more example.
3. What methods does Dante's use to exact revenge against different characters? Were these acts justified? Why or why not.
4. Who is the cruelest character in the novel? Explain your answer.
5. Should Edmond have chosen Mercedes instead of Haydee? Explain your answer.
6. How did the historical context* influence the characters and the plot?
7. How is the Count at the end of the novel similar or different from Edmond Dantes at the beginning of the novel?
8. Develop an original thematic statement for the novel based on the idea of ambition, or perseverance. Provide several examples from the novel to prove your thematic statement.

Options 9-11 can be used for extra credit. You may choose 2 of these questions to also collect ideas and evidence and potentially use for extra credit.

9. Compare and contrast the mother/son relationships in the novel.
10. What are some attributes shared by Caderousse, Danglars, Fernand, and Monsieur de Villefort?
11. How would the ending be different if Edmond had chosen Mercedes?

*The **historical context** of a literary work is the time and place in which the work is set or written and the themes and issues important at that time and place.

Expectations:

- Your ideas and evidence should be collected either neatly written on notebook paper or typed and printed.
- You should write down an initial idea that answers each question
- You should write down at least 3 supporting reasons for why you believe that idea.
- You should copy from your book 3-4 pieces of text evidence to support your ideas for each question (we strongly recommend you record the page number where you found your evidence because you will need it later on.)

When school begins, we will have a thematic class discussion related to each of these topics. You will need to turn in your ideas and evidence the day of each discussion. Discussions will begin the second day of school and we will have one discussion per class after that.

You will use your notes and the guidance of class discussion to write a short essay in response to each question. You will turn in the essays the class following each discussion.

After the discussions are completed, we will have a Socratic Circle in class where you and your classmates will discuss the novel in detail and ask each other challenging questions about the text.

As the year progresses, *The Count of Monte Cristo* continues to function as a both a common example and a resource for future assignments. Please keep in mind that the more work you put forth over the summer, the more prepared you will be for the Essays and Socratic Circle over this book in the fall. It is in the students' best interests to be fully prepared when school begins since we will have other assignments, and they will be adjusting to their first experience in high school this year. If you have any questions about your assignment, please contact one of the Pre-AP English I teachers listed below:

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