

8th Grade Summer Reading Assignment

Hello, 8th graders.

I hope you are having a splendid summer!

Your summer literature assignment is to read and annotate ***The Count of Monte Cristo***.

1. This book is over 1,000 pages long! You will not be able to complete it the night before school starts.
2. In order to read with comprehension, we always use our tools - highlighter and pencil. Highlighters help us locate the most important parts of the text or our favorite sections. Pencils help us be active readers as we dialogue with the text using **annotations** (short notes in the margins).
3. You will annotate for: Character, Justice, and Providence

Character - what motivates this character? Are they an important character? Why are they important? Is there a word that is repeatedly used to describe the character?

Justice - What is justice? How do the characters in Monte Cristo view justice? Who disregards justice? How is something unjust? What is the relationship between justice and revenge?

Providence - Why do things occur in the story? What is causing events to happen? What or who causes events to connect to each other? Are humans bound to a nameless faceless fate? Or is there a God behind what we see orchestrating our lives?

Because the book is so long, there are chapters you may skip. They are not essential to understanding the story in its entirety and are summarized below.

Make sure you space out your reading across the summer and get through a few chapters a day. This is a fabulous story. As much as I want you to pay attention to what I've said above so you can understand what is occurring, I also want you to enjoy it. Find a comfy spot and dig in.

The Count of Monte Cristo

Chapters to skip

While I strongly encourage you to read the entire book, there are a number of chapters that are rather loquacious and do little to advance the plot. Given the length of the novel, if you choose to, you may skip the following chapters (a brief summary of which is provided):

- Chapter 18 - We learn the history of the vast treasure on Monte Cristo.
- Chapter 21 - Dantes swims to a nearby island and meets Jacopo.
- Chapter 23 - Dantes sneaks off to be left on the Island of Monte Cristo alone.
- Chapter 26 - Dantes travels to find Caderousse to learn what has happened to key people from before his imprisonment.
- Chapter 29 - We learn that Monsieur Morrel has fallen upon difficult financial times.
- Chapter 31 - Franz lands on the Island of Monte Cristo and meets the Count.
- Chapter 33 - The legend of Luigi Vampa.
- Chapter 34 - Franz and Albert go to Rome and meet the Count.
- Chapter 49 - We are introduced to Haydee.
- Chapter 51 - We learn that Max and Valentine are in love.
- Chapter 53 - Monte Cristo makes an appearance at the opera with Haydee, inciting much gossip.
- Chapter 61 - Monte Cristo sends a false telegram, costing Danglas 1 million francs.
- Chapter 91 - Mercedes and Albert leave Paris. He is going to join the army.
- Chapter 97, 98 - Eugenie and Louise leave for Belgium. On their trip, they encounter Andrea. He is arrested and goes back to Paris. They continue on to Brussels.
- Chapter 114 - Danglars flees to Rome and is kidnapped and held for ransom.