

Les Misérables

Photocopiable

While reading

Chapters 1–3

1 Who ...

- a slept nineteen years on a piece of wood?
.....
- b was the Bishop of Digne's servant?
.....
- c was afraid of a stranger in her town?
.....
- d was robbed of his silver?
- e was a chimney sweep?
- f had two little girls and managed an inn?
.....
- g had to leave her daughter to find a job?
.....

2 Number these sentences in the correct order.

- a Valjean decided to spend the night at the church. ☐
- b The Bishop of Digne gave two silver candle-sticks to Valjean as a present. ☐
- c Valjean felt very sad and cried. ☐
- d Valjean tried to give money to a priest. ☐
- e Valjean robbed a poor boy of the only coin he had. ☐
- f Jean Valjean ran into the countryside. ☐
- g The innkeeper of Digne refused to allow Valjean to stay at his inn. ☐

Chapters 4–6

3 Put these events in Chapter 4 the right order.

- a A big man with white hair carries Cosette's bucket. ☐
- b Cosette stares at a beautiful doll on one of the stalls. ☐
- c Mme Thénardier demands the bread and then the coin. ☐
- d Mme Thénardier gives Cosette a coin to buy bread. ☐
- e Cosette runs down the hill into the frightening darkness. ☐
- f The coin drops into the stream. ☐
- g The stranger pretends to find the coin on the floor. ☐

4 Write the sentence from the text that proves these sentences are false.

- a When Cosette woke up at Valjean's place she knew where she was.

- b When Valjean discovered that Javert knew where he lived he decided not to leave his home.
- c When Cosette and Valjean escaped they were not followed by anybody.

5 Match and complete the sentences.

- a When M. Gillenormand found out what Marius was doing ...
- b Marius had promised his father ...
- c Marius liked walking around ...
- d Enjolras called Valjean M. Leblanc ...
- e Sometimes M. Leblanc took his daughter to another bench ...
- f The handkerchief that Cosette had dropped ...
 - i ... he ordered him to leave his house.
 - ii ... to see if Marius would follow them.
 - iii ... had the initials 'U.F.' written on it.
 - iv ... the Luxembourg Gardens.
 - v ... that he would find the man who saved his life and help him.
 - vi ... because of his white hair.

Chapters 7–8

6 Underline the mistakes in the sentences and correct them.

- a The sixteen-year-old girl who visited Marius brought him some food.
- b When Marius saw a triangular hole on the wall of his house, he covered it.
- c While the Jondrettes waited for the old man to come to their home, they put out the fire and cleaned the house.
- d When Marius saw the old man and the young lady enter the Jondrettes home, he realized they were strangers.

7 Cosette writes in her diary what has happened to her ever since she met Marius. Finish the sentences.

- a When I saw the large stone in the garden, I picked it up and I saw
.....
- b After I read the poems I thought of
.....
- c I was comfortably sitting on the bench when I suddenly looked round and
.....

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- d After I told him that I loved him we
.....
- e I have never been as unhappy as today when
I had to tell Marius that
.....
- f I believe Marius will be here the day after
tomorrow because he
.....

Chapters 9–12

8 Guess: Who says these things, who are they talking to, and what are they talking about?

- a 'You are a fool.'
- b 'Well then, I imagine the lucky girl must have money.'
- c 'I shall ask no more favours of you, Monsieur. Goodbye.'
- d 'Your friends are waiting for you at the barricade in the rue the Chanvrière.'
- e 'You'll be shot in two minutes before the barricades fall.'
- f 'A soldier was going to shoot you.'
- g 'She's going to leave me.'

9 Are these true (T) or false (F)?

- a When Valjean read Marius's letter to Cosette he felt happy at first but then he decided to help the young man. ☐
- b At the barricades, it was decided that married men should leave. ☐
- c When the soldiers started shooting the rebels at the barricades, Javert was not tied to the post any longer. ☐
- d Valjean pretended to want to kill Inspector Valjean in order to save him. ☐
- e Javert was happy that Valjean did not kill him. ☐
- f When Marius and Enjolras were fighting off the soldiers, Marius was shot in the leg. ☐
- g When the soldiers entered the wine-shop, they killed everyone but Enjolras. ☐

10 Match and complete the sentences.

- a In the spring of 1832, the people of Paris ...
- b General Lamarque had been popular with the people because of ...
- c The rebels brought things with them such as ...
- d When the rebels found that Javert was a police inspector ...

- e When Marius saw the soldier attacking Enjolras ...
- f The soldiers were at the top of the barricade but they could not advance ...
- i ... because the rebels were fighting bravely.
- ii ... he took his gun and killed him.
- iii ... were ready for a revolution.
- iv ... his love for Napoleon.
- v ... they tied him to a post.
- vi ... gunpowder and weapons to fight the soldiers.

Chapters 13–15

11 Finish the sentences.

- a Valjean searched Marius's pockets and found ...
- b After Inspector Javert saw Marius and Valjean ...
- c When M. Gillenormand first saw Marius, he thought that ...
- d The doctor said that Marius's wound to his body ...
- e As Marius lay dying ...
- i ... a letter with his grandfather's address.
- ii ... he repeated the name 'Cosette'.
- iii ... was not serious but the cuts were deep.
- iv ... he was dead.
- v ... he helped them get to Marius's old home.

12 Underline the mistakes in the sentences and correct them.

- a When Marius told his grandfather that he wanted to marry Cosette, M. Gillenormand again did not allow him to do so.
- b When Cosette and Marius were left alone she started crying.
- c The money Valjean gave to Cosette belonged to a stranger.
- d What Marius had found out about M. Thénardier was that Mme Thénardier had died and that M. Thénardier had escaped with his two daughters.
- e The day Marius and Cosette got married, M. Gillenormand left early.

After reading

13 Change the ending.

Do you like the ending? What changes would you suggest? Write a new paragraph to put an end to the story.

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Chapters 1–3

1 Correct the mistakes in these sentences.

- a Jean Valjean was never helped by anybody because he had spent a long time in prison.
- b The bishop told Valjean that he had bought his soul from the devil and kept it.
- c The Thénardiens agreed to look after Cosette without asking for anything from Fantine.
- d Cosette had the Thénardier daughters for her companions.
- e Javert did not take Fantine to prison because she begged him not to.

Chapters 4–6

2 Write true (✓), false (X) or it does not say (?)

- a Cosette was amazed by a doll. ☐
- b Valjean could not stay at the Thénardier's inn because he did not have enough money. ☐
- c Thanks to Cosette, Valjean discovered love. ☐
- d Valjean thought that the beggar looked like Inspector Javert. ☐
- e George Pontmercy's wife died of pneumonia. ☐

3 Choose the right sentence.

- a When Marius went back to the Luxembourg Gardens after six months ...
 - i he was amazed by how beautiful Cosette had become.
 - ii he did not realize that Cosette was the same girl who used to go to the park.
- b When Cosette gazed at Marius ...
 - i he felt strange.
 - ii he trembled from head to foot.
- c When Marius found the handkerchief with the initials 'U.F.' ...
 - i he thought her name was Ulla.
 - ii he thought her name was Ursula.

Chapters 7–8

4 Choose the right words.

- a When Marius realized that the girls had dropped the package he *picked it up and later on opened it / he gave it to the police.*
- b Marius's neighbour wanted to show him how she could write and she wrote '*leave the room now*' / '*be careful the police are coming*'.
- c Javert gave Marius two guns and told him that if anything went wrong *he should shoot one of the guns / he should shoot both of them.*

- d Marius did not want to give evidence against the Thénardiens so he *left his home to live with Enjolras / lied to Inspector Javert.*

Chapters 9–12

5 Complete with the correct word.

barricades	aristocracy	blot	cannons
coffin	stronghold		

- a Charles X was not very popular because he favoured the
- b When Marius reached the the soldiers were already climbing the
- c The soldiers wanted to defeat the rebels so they started firing their
- d Cosette forgot to remove the page she had used to the letter she had written.
- e When General Lamarque died, the soldiers accompanied his

6 Write true (✓) or false (X).

- a M. Gillenormand was happy to see his son after so long. ☐
- b Marius hated his grandfather for insulting his father and his future wife. ☐
- c When Marius received Cosette's letter he decided to run after her. ☐
- d Marius wrote a letter for Cosette and gave it to a young boy to deliver to her. ☐
- e Valjean was very jealous of the young man in the Luxembourg Gardens but he decided to help him anyway. ☐
- f Jean Valjean disguised himself as a rebel in order to help Marius. ☐

Chapters 13–15

7 Write right (✓) or wrong (X).

- a When Marius was shot, Valjean helped him. ☐
- b Valjean and Marius escaped through the Paris sewers. ☐
- c Marius was out of danger but he could not remember who had saved him from death. ☐
- d Marius was told that the old man who visited him every day was Valjean. ☐
- e In order to help Cosette, Valjean told everybody that he was her father. ☐