

## Approved for use in all English courses

### Summary of the Work:

D'Artagnon, an impetuous and brave young man, travels to Paris to make his fortune. His adventures lead him to join the Musketeers, and together they set off on a quest to restore the queen's honor. Their adventures bring them in contact with several historical figures in pre-revolution France. They successfully navigate court intrigues and the conflict between England and France to save the honor of the French monarchy.

### Rationale:

*The Three Musketeers*, wildly popular since its original publication in 1844, has enthralled readers worldwide for over 150 years. Its mixture of heroic deeds and chivalry, historical monarchs and villains, swash-buckling adventure and political intrigue will capture the imaginations of today's students. The novel is a challenging read because of its historical setting, wide cast of characters, and complex plot. Dumas' classic novel retains much of its humor, irony, and delight even though it is translated from the original French.

### Professional Reviews and/or Critical Essays:

- \* Print resources are available from the library media center and libraries in the district. Contact any library media specialist to view the scholarly sources.
- \* Scholarly reviews are also available online through Books in Print and Gale. Contact the library media specialist to obtain username and password information to access the subscription database of full-text reviews.

### Noted Distinction:

#### Readability:

- Lexile Score: 960
- Readability Level: 11.3 (Accelerated Reader)

#### Learning Resources Guidelines:

- The novel meets the Learning Resources Guidelines.

#### Standard Alignment: ([link](#))

#### Approval:

Submitted to Committee:

Approved for Adoption:

### Notes on the Text:

*(The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.)*

Topics and ideas for further study—

- Research the code of chivalry and the ideals it upholds. How do the Musketeers advocate this code? Find several events in which their actions may be chivalrous but on another level are amoral or inhumane.
- The Musketeers' loyalty to each other, and their enthusiastic killing of enemies, is similar in some ways to how modern gangs operate. Read about modern gangs and write about the similarities and differences between them and the Musketeers.
- How accurately did Dumas portray Cardinal Richelieu? Read about the Cardinal's life and compare his real life to the life portrayed in *The Three Musketeers*.
- Dumas presents the siege of La Rochelle as an amusing picnic for the Musketeers. What was war really like in the seventeenth century?

Source:

*Novels for Students*. Ed. Jennifer Smith. Vol. 14. Detroit: Gale, 2002. pp. 266-290.  
[www.go.galegroup.com](http://www.go.galegroup.com)

### Connection to the Curriculum:

Honors English I students study the Hero's Journey as a pattern to analyze literature. D'Artagnon's adventures in *The Three Musketeers* fit this pattern in the context of a classic historical novel.

### Additional Connections:

*(AP, Honors, Essential/Applied, Dramas, Films, etc.)*