

CHAPTER 1

D'Artagnan was a young and handsome man. He was the son of a farmer. His father was a **musketeer** when he was a young man. The musketeers were the personal bodyguard of the king and queen of France.

D'Artagnan wanted to be a musketeer. He told his father, "I'm leaving home. I'm going to Paris. I want to become a musketeer."

His father gave him some presents. He gave d'Artagnan an old yellow horse and a letter of introduction to Monsieur de Treville who was the head of the king's musketeers.

"Guide yourself with your courage and mind. Don't take any criticism from anyone except the Cardinal and the king. With bravery and determination you can achieve anything," his father said.

D'Artagnan's mother gave him a salve to **heal** any wound quickly.

He said goodbye to his mother and father. D'Artagnan rode the old yellow horse down the road. He reached the town of Meung. A well-dressed man with an eye-patch saw d'Artagnan's horse.

"A **country bumpkin** riding a broken old horse," he said to his friends and they started laughing.

musket (n) a type of long gun used in the past

musketeer (n) someone who uses a musket

heal (v) to make or become healthy again

country bumpkin (n) a villager, someone from the countryside



“A country bumpkin riding a broken old horse,” he said to his friends and they started laughing.

D'Artagnan got angry.

“I demand satisfaction, sir!” d'Artagnan shouted.

The well-dressed man's friends attacked d'Artagnan. They beat d'Artagnan until he was **unconscious**.

When d'Artagnan woke up, the well-dressed man was talking to a beautiful woman in a carriage.

“Very good, Milady,” the well-dressed man said. He got into the carriage and left the town of Meung.

D'Artagnan stood up and dusted off his clothes. He patted his pocket. The letter of introduction to Monsieur de Treville was gone. The well-dressed man had stolen it.

D'Artagnan got back on his horse and rode to Paris. He went to the home of Monsieur de Treville. There were many musketeers outside the house. They were telling stories about women and war.

D'Artagnan went inside the house to meet Monsieur de Treville.

“Aramis, Porthos, get in here!” Monsieur de Treville shouted.

D'Artagnan watched as two musketeers came into the room. Aramis was well-dressed and looked too delicate to be a musketeer. Porthos was a loud and **boorish** man.

unconscious (adj) not awake because of a head injury

boorish (adj) rude



D'Artagnan watched as two musketeers came into the room.

“Why did you fight with the Cardinal’s guards?” Monsieur de Treville asked and said, “You two and Athos lost to the guards. They arrested you and you let them call you cowards!”

“Monsieur de Treville, we did kill some of the guards,” Porthos said.

The door opened and another musketeer walked in. He was a handsome and **distinguished** man. He was wounded. Monsieur de Treville’s attitude changed. He didn’t look angry any more. He looked worried. The man collapsed on the floor.

“Athos! Quickly, fetch the doctor!” Monsieur de Treville shouted.

The musketeers in the house found the doctor and brought him to Athos. The doctor took Athos away to treat his wounds. The other musketeers left the room.

Monsieur de Treville looked at d’Artagnan.

“What do you want?” he asked.

“I’m here to join the musketeers. I’ve come from Gascony. My father was a musketeer. He gave me a letter of introduction to give you, but a well-dressed man stole it,” D’Artagnan said and looked out of the window.

distinguished (adj) respected and admired by other people

COMPREHENSION CHECK

Test-1

Are the following sentences True (T) or False (F)?

1. D'Artagnan went to Paris to become a musketeer. T / F
2. Planchet was one of the three musketeers. T / F
3. The Cardinal's guards didn't want to fight D'Artagnan. T / F
4. The queen sent d'Artagnan to England to save Milady from Lord de Winter. T / F
5. The queen wore the brooch to the ball. T / F
6. The Fleur-de-lis branded on Milady's shoulder meant she was a criminal. T / F
7. Felton failed to kill Buckingham. T / F
8. Constance was secretly working for the queen. T / F
9. Milady was actually Athos's wife. T / F
10. Following his success, D'Artagnan became a lieutenant in the king's musketeers. T / F

Test-2

Who said this in the story?

Athos, The queen, Monsieur de Treville, D'Artagnan, Constance, The Cardinal, Felton or Milady

1. "I'm leaving home. I'm going to Paris. I want to become a musketeer."
.....
2. "Athos! Quickly, fetch the doctor!"
.....
3. "We'll find and rescue the maid."
.....
4. "I'm on a mission for the queen."
.....
5. "The Duke of Buckingham came to see the queen last night."
.....
6. "What an odd gift. My brooch doesn't need more diamonds."
.....
7. "I had a ring that looked like that."
.....
8. "We'll Buckingham and run away to France."
.....
9. "I heard you were dead."
.....
10. "I charge you with the murder of Constance Bonacieux."
.....

GRAMMAR CHECK

Test-1

Choose the best answer.

1. Kitty for them when the four men arrived at the dressmaker's house.
a. has waited b. was waiting c. waits
2. He was completely under her control he was in love with her.
a. though b. if c. because
3. Milady started to make plans
a. to escape b. escaped c. escaping
4. Milady stabbed herself with a knife. She was careful not to do damage.
a. few b. a few c. too much
5. Porthos married his rich widow and lived luxury.
a. at b. in c. on
6. Milady tried to get Constance to the carriage but Constance was scared to move.
a. too b. enough c. some
7. The five men captured Milady as she to cross a river out of France.
a. has tried b. was trying c. tries

Test-2

Choose the best answer.

There was a comte ¹ lived not far from here. He married a young woman ² a peasant family. He broke the social rules of marriage ³ he was in love. One day, he ⁴ the mark of the Fleur-de-Lis on her left shoulder. They put that mark on the worst criminals. The comte was heartbroken. The woman didn't love him. She ⁵ wanted his power and his money.

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|----|----------|--------------|---------------|
| 1. | a. which | b. who | c. where |
| 2. | a. from | b. at | c. for |
| 3. | a. so | b. if | c. because |
| 4. | a. found | b. has found | c. is finding |
| 5. | a. for | b. only | c. already |

Test-3

Put these words in the correct order so that the sentences make sense.

- with / stabbed / Milady / herself / a / knife
.....
- wine / poisoned / him / she / sent / some
.....
- to / duel / Porthos / in / stopped / a / pub
.....