

# The Chrestomathy

## *Cyrano de Bergerac*

### Unit Specifics

Explanation: This sheet will need to accompany the Table of Contents for the Cyrano unit. On it are the specific words and topics the student will need to be able to complete various parts of the chrestomathy. The student will need to check the option they chose and fill in the test scores in the box at the bottom. When completed, this will be the second page of the chrestomathy.

#### **Word Quest Words**

- Misanthrope
- Repetition
- Orthodox
- Chronological
- Syllogism
- Demagogue
- Sensory
- Monogamy
- Ambiguity
- Contradiction
- Incongruity
- Monarchy
- Subtlety
- Audience
- Melancholy
- Immortal
- Authority
- Coronet
- Deprecating
- Sacrament
- Inconspicuous
- Grotesque
- Nocturnal
- Terrestrial
- Interminable
- Generate
- Patron
- Exterminated
- Antagonize
- Disillusionment
- Posterior
- Insomnia
- Hydrophobia
- Rhapsodize
- Microcosm
- Mediterranean
- Invincible
- Pathetic
- Ferocious
- Intellectual
- Carriage
- Interpret

#### **Narrative Topics**

- How important is a person's style, their mode of dress, their quality of speech, their carriage? Can style be deceiving? Can it be empowering? Is it important to be a "type" of person? How does your style communicate what is inside you to the rest of the world? Tell a story of a time when your style was important to you.
- Do you think honor is important? Why? Do you consider yourself to be an honorable person? Tell a story of a time in your life when you failed to be honorable.
- What are the qualities that most define beauty to you? Is it piercing eyes, washboard stomach, ample bosom, button nose? Or is true beauty something harder to identify? Tell a story of a time when you have encountered what you believe to be true beauty.
- Have you ever been in love? If you have not, what do you expect when it happens to you? Is love easy to come by or is it a once in a lifetime sort of thing? Tell a story of a time you believed yourself to be in love.

#### **Response to Literature Topics**

This is a main focus for this unit. This essay will be typed, doubled-spaced in 12-pt. professional font. It will have a title and the student's name will be printed on the back only of every sheet.

- Do you think Cyrano's conduct toward Roxane is admirable or foolish?
- Is Roxane actually in love, or merely in love with the idea of being in love?
- How is Cyrano the master of his fate, the captain of his soul? Use the poem "Invictus," by William Ernest Henley as a standard for your argument.
- CHALLENGE TOPIC:** Critics of the play often say that its greatest weakness is the fact that the main character is the one that changes the least. He is reticent to a fault and to his death. Persuade whether you believe this to make the play better or worse.
- CHALLENGE TOPIC:** Do you think Cyrano is a high-minded man, according to the standards laid out in Aristotle's Nichomachean Ethics? (Check the class website for the relevant excerpt from Aristotle, and a sample essay.)
- CHALLENGE TOPIC:** Compare and contrast the characters of Cyrano and Dr. Gregory House. Are these protagonists more alike or different?

#### **Persuasive Topic**

- Which is a better superpower, flight or invisibility?