



SADDLEBACK
EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHING

Saddleback's
Illustrated Classics™

The Man in the Iron Mask

ALEXANDRE
DUMAS



Welcome to Saddleback's *Illustrated Classics*TM

We are proud to welcome you to Saddleback's *Illustrated Classics*TM. Saddleback's *Illustrated Classics*TM was designed specifically for the classroom to introduce readers to many of the great classics in literature. Each text, written and adapted by teachers and researchers, has been edited using the Dale-Chall vocabulary system. In addition, much time and effort has been spent to ensure that these high-interest stories retain all of the excitement, intrigue, and adventure of the original books.

With these graphically *Illustrated Classics*TM, you learn what happens in the story in a number of different ways. One way is by reading the words a character says. Another way is by looking at the drawings of the character. The artist can tell you what kind of person a character is and what he or she is thinking or feeling.

This series will help you to develop confidence and a sense of accomplishment as you finish each novel. The stories in Saddleback's *Illustrated Classics*TM are fun to read. And remember, fun motivates!

Overview

Everyone deserves to read the best literature our language has to offer. Saddleback's *Illustrated Classics*[™] was designed to acquaint readers with the most famous stories from the world's greatest authors, while teaching essential skills. You will learn how to:

- Establish a purpose for reading
- Use prior knowledge
- Evaluate your reading
- Listen to the language as it is written
- Extend literary and language appreciation through discussion and writing activities

Reading is one of the most important skills you will ever learn. It provides the key to all kinds of information. By reading the *Illustrated Classics*[™], you will develop confidence and the self-satisfaction that comes from accomplishment—a solid foundation for any reader.

Step-By-Step

The following is a simple guide to using and enjoying each of your *Illustrated Classics*[™]. To maximize your use of the learning activities provided, we suggest that you follow these steps:

1. ***Listen!*** We suggest that you listen to the read-along. (At this time, please ignore the beeps.) You will enjoy this wonderfully dramatized presentation.
2. ***Pre-reading Activities.*** After listening to the audio presentation, the pre-reading activities in the Activity Book prepare you for reading the story by setting the scene, introducing more difficult vocabulary words, and providing some short exercises.
3. ***Reading Activities.*** Now turn to the “While you are reading” portion of the Activity Book, which directs you to make a list of story-related facts. Read-along while listening to the audio presentation. (This time pay attention to the beeps, as they indicate when each page should be turned.)
4. ***Post-reading Activities.*** You have successfully read the story and listened to the audio presentation. Now answer the multiple-choice questions and other activities in the Activity Book.



Alexandre Dumas

Alexandre Dumas, a French novelist and dramatist, was born at Viller-Cotterets in 1802. His father, the illegitimate son of a marquis, was a general in the Revolutionary armies, but died when Dumas was only four years old. He received a basic education from a priest and entered the office of a local lawyer.

After he met General Foy, he became a clerk in the service of the Duke of Orleans. At that time, he began to collaborate with Leuven in the production of vaudevilles and melodramas.

In 1844 he produced, with the help of Auguste Maquet, his new collaborator, a famous cloak-and-dagger romance, *The Three Musketeers*, which is based almost solely on historical fact, as opposed to his other very successful novel, *The Count of Monte Cristo*, which was a product of his brilliant imagination.

Much has been written about Dumas' share in the novels which bear his name. The Dumas-Maquet series is undoubtedly the best. But the manuscripts of novels still exist in Dumas' handwriting and attest to his skill as a narrator, and he is considered by most literary critics as "the master of narrative."

Dumas died in 1870.

Saddleback's *Illustrated Classics*™

The Man in the Iron Mask

ALEXANDRE DUMAS

THE MAIN CHARACTERS



Louis XIV



Aramis



The Man in the Iron Mask



d'Artagnan



Anne of Austria

D'Artagnan, Aramis, Porthos, and Athos always stood together and fought together. The four musketeers shared many adventures, but none was stranger than the one that involved the man in the iron mask.

Who was this prisoner who ended his days on the lonely island? Why must his face be hidden forever behind a mask?

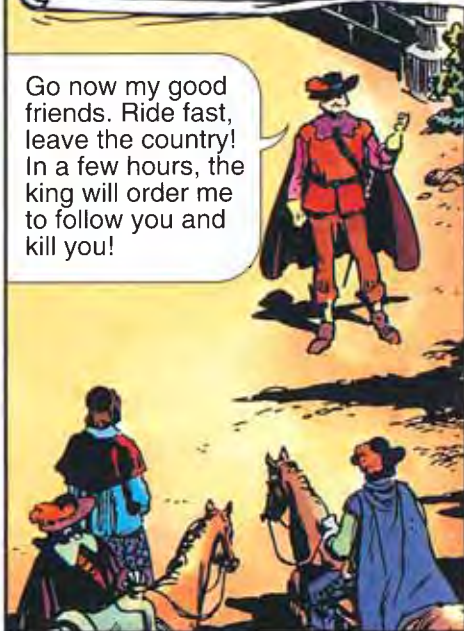


In their early days together there was no question about the loyalty that the musketeers had for each other.



Then years later, came a secret so dangerous that it threatened the throne of France itself and put the old friends on different sides.

Go now my good friends. Ride fast, leave the country! In a few hours, the king will order me to follow you and kill you!



D'Artagnan was captain of the king's musketeers.

He knew the secret, and was ordered by King Louis XIV to hide the prisoner's face forever.



Our present story begins on a summer night in 1661 when Aramis visited the Bastille, a great prison, to hear the confession of a prisoner. Once a musketeer, Aramis was now Bishop of Vannes.

The governor of the prison went with him to the cell.



Leave, Baise-meaux! You cannot hear the prisoner's confession.

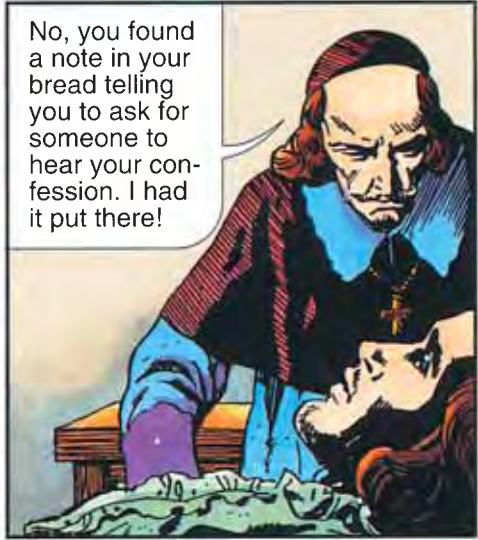
Alone, Aramis entered and faced the young prisoner.

Are you ill?
Is that why
you have
asked for me?

Yes...



No, you found a note in your bread telling you to ask for someone to hear your confession. I had it put there!



Then it is you who have an important secret to tell me! I will listen.

My secret is so important that if the king knew I was here tonight, I would die tomorrow!



