

In particular Act V:

1. Examine the opening of the act. What effect would it have on audiences watching a stage production.?
2. What do we learn about Cyrano's situation at this stage of his life?
3. How has de Guiche changed?
4. What has Cyrano done every Saturday for the last fifteen years?
5. Why does Roxane fail to notice that Cyrano has been badly injured?
6. How would you describe Cyrano's relationship with the sisters in the convent?
7. What leads Roxane to the conclusion that Cyrano was actually the author of the letters?
8. Why does Cyrano deny loving Roxanne?
9. Cyrano seems to declaim his own epitaph. How does he describe his life?
10. Explain the impact of the play's last moment and Cyrano's last line.

The play over all:

1. Why is Cyrano de Bergerac an atypical romantic hero.
2. Why is Roxanne very much the typical romantic heroine.
3. What are the differences in the characters of Christian and Cyrano and why is their relationship so important?
4. Why are Valvert and Ragueneau's relationship with Cyrano so important, even though they are minor roles?
5. What elements of the play cause it to fit into a "romantic drama" category?
6. Why does Cyrano arouse the audience's admiration and sympathy?
7. How does Roxanne change from the beginning to the end of the play?
8. Why are Montfleury, the Comte de Guiche, and Le Bret, as minor characters so important to the play and why is their relationship to Cyrano noteworthy?
9. John Gassner feels the "Cyrano's speech on noses is one of the rare acceptable purple patches of the modern drama". According to *A Handbook to Literature*, a purple patch is "a piece of fine writing... prose which is intensely colorful... rhythmic... full of imagery and figures of speech, characterized by poetic diction, etc." Pick favorite passages of that speech and explain why those passages fulfill the definition.