

Name:

Date:

*Les Misérables* "Fantine"--Due Monday, 1/14/19

**Directions:** Answer each question fully based off of the reading. Answers should be in complete sentences with textual evidence to support your answers.

Before Reading--completed 1/7:

1. Based on the listicle, what is life like during the time period of *Les Misérables*?
2. What can you predict about the author's purpose in writing *Les Mis* based on the information you learned from the listicle?

Voting Laws Questions (discuss and complete within your groups)--completed 1/8:

1. Compare the Voter ID articles to the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Based on what you know about amendments, how can these laws exist?
2. Why do you think Voter ID laws have been proposed in various states? Do you think voting should be mandated at the state or federal level? Which do you think would be more equitable?
3. How do the issues within these articles relate to "Fantine" (book one) in *Les Misérables*?
4. Do you think there is a way for our character(s) in *Les Mis* to escape from the discrimination that they face? Why or why not?

During Reading--due 1/14:

1. Why is Jean Valjean turned away from housing at the beginning of the novel? Do we have the same type of discrimination in our society today? Use evidence to support opinion.
2. Who is Monseigneur Bienvenu (M. Myriel)? What does he give Jean Valjean? Why is this important? How does this act drive the plot of the novel?
3. Who is Jean Valjean? How long was he in prison? For what crime(s)? Based on what you know of Jean Valjean, do you think he is merely a criminal? Why or why not? Can a person ever truly escape their past?
4. Who is Fantine? How would you first describe her when we are first introduced to her?
5. Why is she worried about her coworkers finding out about Cosette? What happens if they do?
6. Who does Fantine entrust Cosette to? Was this choice a good decision? Why or why not?
7. What does Fantine first sell? Why is this item ironic? (Think back to question 4). What ultimately happens at the end of Fantine?
8. What societal issue(s) does Hugo identify and criticize in this section? Do we still see these issues in our society today?

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### "Fantine" Book Search Group Activity--due 1/11

Victor Hugo's *Les Miserables* captures the struggles within Parisian society during the nineteenth century. While book one "Fantine" acts as an introduction to the major characters and plot of the novel, Hugo also integrates major motifs and literary devices within the first book. In groups of 6, you all will become "experts" on one of the following themes or literary devices. You will identify examples of your chosen motif/literary device from "Fantine" and analyze the effect it has on "Fantine." You will also need to think about how this motif/literary device will affect the novel as a whole.

-Foreshadowing and Flashback

-Imagery

-Symbolism

-Class struggle

-Oppression

-Fate v. Free Will

-Innocence/Naivete

-Compassion and Love

-Adversity

-Justice v. Injustice

Your group will present your motif/literary device to the class. Your presentation should include the following information about your literary device/motif:

-A basic definition for the literary device or a description of the motif

-An example of the literary device or motif within the first book "Fantine" of the novel

-The quote that demonstrates this literary device/motif

-An analysis of the effect of the literary device or motif (should be longer than a sentence)

-A prediction on how this literary device or motif will affect the novel as a whole (should be longer than a sentence)

-An illustration that demonstrates/represents the literary device/motif