

## Reading Response #3

**Due: December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016**

Now that you are almost finished your book, it is time to look at the bigger picture and identify the larger themes or messages presented in your book.

**Say it:** Identify one theme/message that the author intends readers to take away from the book.

**Support it:** Use several examples/quotes from your book that prove the existence of this theme.

**Explain it:** Explain it in your own words

### **Example:**

Throughout the book *The Count of Monte Cristo*, Edmond Dantes is wronged by several people. He is wrongfully imprisoned and framed by Mondego, Danglars, and Villefort; his fiancée is essentially stolen from him; and he is whipped and mistreated in prison. However, in the end Edmond receives justice. One message that Alexandre Dumas tries to convey to his readers in *The Count of Monte Cristo* is that justice will always be served in the end and everything will be made right.

First, as Edmond is escaping the Chateau d'If prison, he drowns the man who had been whipping him for 13 years. The prison guard admitted to knowing that Edmond was innocent, yet took great pleasure in whipping him year after year. Killing him was Edmond's first taste of justice. After becoming the Count of Monte Cristo, Edmond is able to charm his way back into the lives of the others who wronged him in order to seek justice. He is able to catch Danglars in the act of stealing from his merchant vessel, having him arrested. Next, he gets Villefort to confess to conspiring to murder his own father and also has him imprisoned. Instead of allowing Villefort the mercy of ending his own life, he makes Villefort live out his remaining days in prison, just as he had done to Edmond those 16 years ago. Finally, Edmond takes the life of Count Mondego, just as Mondego had metaphorically taken Edmond's life by sending him off to life in prison and taking his fiancée for himself.

In the end, everyone gets exactly what each deserves. Edmond becomes rich, successful, and gets his family back, while the book's villains finally get punishment for their actions. Justice for all. In the movie this message is underscored in the final scene when the camera pans back to the message that Edmond had carved into the walls of the Chateau d'If prison cell: God will give me justice.