

The Scarlet Pimpernel

Enrichment / Writing 2

Students will not complete every activity suggested in this section. Writing assignments should be done neatly in a notebook or typed with double spacing.

I. Studying the Writing Style

Foreshadowing is a tool used by authors to give readers a hint that something is to follow. For example, chapter 6 closes with Sir Andrew noticing the deep longing in Sir Percy's eyes as he watches Marguerite leave, giving us the clue that he cares for her more than he shows. With this hint into his feelings for Marguerite we might ask ourselves why he is hiding his emotions. We know that more will follow.

Find foreshadowing regarding Armand at the end of chapter 7; find foreshadowing again at the end of chapter 8 and at the end of chapter 9. When noticing foreshadowing, we can recognize a clue is being given without knowing for certain what it means. We can guess at what might follow, but cannot know without reading further. Be alert for foreshadowing instances and write them in your notebook along with your conjecture about possible meanings.

II. Writing Essays and Reports

Writing an essay differs from writing a report in that an essay includes your opinion based on facts. Information is important in an essay as the basis for your interpretation or beliefs.

Review the directions given for writing reports in Unit 1. Writing a good essay or report requires five steps: choosing a topic, thinking and gathering information about the topic, organizing the information, writing a rough draft, and correcting and polishing the rough draft into a final copy.

Choose one of the following:

1. Research the French Revolution, focusing on the year 1792. Limit your research to the politics of the time and write a report on what you find.
2. Research what was happening in America in 1792 and write a report comparing France and America.
3. Following the antics of the Scarlet Pimpernel had become a national pastime in England--a fad. Fads and fashion are significant contributors to cultures. Write an essay on the folly or wisdom of fads, using for your example a fad or fashion trend either from today or from the past.
4. Research who Robespierre, Danton, and Marat were and the part they played in the French Revolution. Write a report on what you find.

III. Analyzing

Answer each question with a well-thought out paragraph or discuss in a group. Base your opinion on sound reasoning and express your ideas clearly and concisely. Write as if the person reading your explanations has not read the novel.

1. Marguerite believed that Percy “worshipped” her, was blindly and passionately in love with her and thus consented to marry him. Was that reason enough? Explain. (*Chapter 7*)
2. Marguerite was involved in the death of an entire family. That fact appears to have changed how her husband feels about her, yet she tells her brother she would not demean herself by explaining the extenuating circumstances that would exonerate her. Why would a man that worships his wife quickly believe the worst about her? Why wouldn’t the wife seek to clarify the situation? What can we learn about human nature from this scenario? (*Chapter 7*)
3. Armand is a republican, meaning a supporter of the revolution, but has modified his beliefs and is returning to France to help the country he loves. Why? How can he help? (*Chapter 7*)
4. Why would Chauvelin ask Marguerite to help him? Why is he not discouraged by her refusal? Why is he willing to risk exposure by revealing to her why he is in England? Wouldn’t he be in danger if she went to the authorities? Explain. (*Chapter 8*)
5. As close as the brother and sister are, why didn’t Armand tell Marguerite why he was returning to France? (*Chapter 9*)
6. Knowing the importance of their conversation and that they had been warned not to have private conversations in public places, why did the two gentlemen discuss the plans in front of the fire? What do you think will happen to them? (*Chapter 9*)
7. Why is Chauvelin so intent on Marguerite’s help? (*Chapter 10*)
8. Should Marguerite confide in her husband regarding her difficulty with Chauvelin? Why? (*Chapter 10*)
9. Can Chauvelin be trusted? Even if Marguerite does as he asks, will he uphold his end of the bargain? Explain. (*Chapter 10*)