

**STUDENT PACKET** 

**GRADES 9-12** 

# Cyrano de Bergerac

Edmond Rostand



WITH A NEW AFTERWORD BY CYNTHIA B. KERR



**READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT** 

# Cyrano de Bergerac

## Edmond Rostand

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#### NOTE:

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

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### Act Four, Scenes VI-X

- 1. Why does Carbon ask for Roxane's handkerchief?
- 2. Who has accompanied Roxane and what have they brought for the men?
- 3. Why does Count de Guiche decide to stay with the men and fight?
- 4. Why does Christian respond "violently" when Cyrano tells him about all the letters he has written since they came to the front?
- 5. Why has Roxane come to see Christian?
- 6. Why does Christian believe that Roxane loves Cyrano?
- 7. Why does Christian want Cyrano to tell Roxane the truth—and why doesn't he do so?
- 8. How does Roxane escape injury in the fearsome battle?
- 9. Why do you think it takes Christian so long to figure out that Cyrano is in love with Roxane? (Did he really suspect it before? Is he "dense"—or do you think most people are just as oblivious to Cyrano's true feelings?)
- \*\* 10. What will Roxane's life be like, now that her husband is dead? When will Cyrano tell Roxane the truth, now that Christian is gone?

### Act Five, Scenes I-VI

- 1. How much time has passed between Acts Four and Five, and what is the season now?
- 2. Where has Roxane been living?
- 3. How often has Cyrano visited Roxane and why?
- 4. How can you tell that Cyrano is poor?
- 5. Who is "the Duke" and what does he think of Cyrano now?
- 6. What warning does the Duke tell Le Bret to pass on to Cyrano?
- 7. How has Cyrano been injured, and why doesn't Roxane notice his injury?
- 8. How does Roxane finally figure out that Cyrano is the one who wrote all those letters?
- 9. Briefly describe Cyrano's death scene.
- 10. Why do you think Cyrano was silent for 15 years?

\*

**Directions:** Two steps in problem solving are: (a) brainstorming possible solutions, and (b) measuring each against specific criteria. At the beginning of the play, Cyrano faces a problem. He loves Roxane, but fears that she could never be attracted to him as she is to Christian. What should he do? Help him solve his problem by

- a) considering the choices in the chart below (and adding your own suggestion at the bottom)
- b) weighing the criteria ("yardstick" questions used to measure how a particular choice "measures up"), and

	Criteria:			
Possible Choices ↓	Will anyone get hurt?	Will this create new problems?	Will I achieve my goal?	Will I still have my honor?
Tell Roxane exactly how you feel.				
Have a friend tell Roxane how you feel.				
Write an anonymous love note.				
Keep your feelings hidden and help Christian woo Roxane.				
Tell Roxane Christian is no good for her.				

c) scoring each choice: 1=yes, 2=maybe, or 3=no.

Name\_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Here is a special edition of the *Gazette-Paris* that was published the day Cyrano was killed. Fill in the spaces and provide "photos" (magazine cut-outs or drawings).

(motto) Gaz PA	ette     Today's weather:       RIS		
(dz "Fate" Cyrano's dying words (story about the contrast between Cyrano's past heroics and the way he died)	Caption:	(price) glue on photo or sketch Stout-Hearted Gascon Meets Maker	