

Individual Learning Packet

Teaching Unit

*The Hunchback
of Notre-Dame*

by Victor Hugo

Copyright © 2001 by Prestwick House Inc., P.O. Box 658, Clayton, DE 19938. 1-800-932-4593.
www.prestwickhouse.com Permission to copy this unit for classroom use is extended to purchaser for his or her
personal use. This material, in whole or part, may not be copied for resale.

ISBN 13: 978-1-60389-807-2

Reorder No. 201621

The Hunchback of Notre-Dame

Objectives

By the end of this unit, the student will be able to:

1. identify and trace the events in the main plot and the subplots.
2. draw inferences about the major and minor characters of the novel and identify and discuss their relationships.
3. identify and discuss the Romantic Movement and how this novel fits into that movement.
4. identify the historical and geographical setting of the novel.
5. analyze the writing style of Hugo.
6. identify and discuss the reasons that this novel is able to move most readers both intellectually and emotionally.
7. understand the vocabulary words of the novel.
8. identify and discuss Hugo's use of architecture as a symbol.
9. identify the major themes of the novel and cite incidents from the novel that support those themes.
10. identify and discuss how Hugo creates mood in the novel.
11. define and find examples of the following literary terms:
 - symbol
 - allegory
 - mood
 - pun
 - antagonist
 - simile
 - metonymy
 - litotes
 - allusion
 - metaphor
 - theme
 - protagonist
 - tragic hero
 - flashback
 - romanticism

The Hunchback of Notre-Dame

Questions for Essay and Discussion

1. Who are the main characters of the novel and what are their relationships to each other?
2. Why are Quasimodo and La Esmeralda perfect complements to each other?
3. Discuss Hugo's use of detail in the description of the architecture of Notre-Dame and the city of Paris. Why is this important?
4. Hugo explored the theme that appearances can be deceiving. What are some examples of this from the novel?
5. Hugo also explores the theme of fate and how it affects people's lives. What are some examples of this from the novel?
6. Why is Quasimodo considered the protagonist of the plot? Explain his antagonists and the outcome of his story.
7. Give examples that foreshadow the tragic conclusion of the novel.
8. Discuss symbolism and Hugo's use of symbols in *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame*.
9. Discuss Quasimodo's relationship to the bells. What causes his relationship with his beloved bells to change?
10. Discuss the mood of the novel and give specific examples of how Hugo achieves that mood.
11. Give examples of why *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame* is a Romantic novel.
12. Discuss the role of the spectator and the spectacle in the novel and give examples.
13. Explain whether you feel the ending of the book is sentimental, coincidental, believable, or melodramatic.
14. Define and find examples of:
 - flashback
 - allusion
 - pun
 - metaphor
 - simile

The Hunchback of Notre-Dame

Study Guide Student Edition

Chapter 1 The Great Hall

Picards and Burgundians - medieval French political factions

Dauphin - the eldest son of the king of France

burgomasters - the chief magistrate of a municipal town; a mayor

pillion - small saddle for women

ribald- vulgar or indecent

brigandine - armor covered by linen, velvet, or leather

morality, burletta, and farce - allegorical forms of drama from the 14th to 16th century
employing personified abstractions such as virtues and vices

provost - high-ranking university administrative officer

camlet - a medieval fabric

constabulary - an armed police force

marshalry - a body of officials in charge of the military

gendarmerie - a group of French police

bourgeois - a middle class person

jerkin - a close-fitting jacket

doublet - a close-fitting jacket

fleurs-de-lis - an artistic design of a flower

Gothic - a style of architecture in Western Europe from the middle 12th to the early 16th century.

lintels - horizontal pieces across the top of doors

cubit - ancient unit of length, about 18 inches

cotte - a tunic

tiretaine - tartan

coped and mitred - wearing ecclesiastical clothing

azure - blue

cornices - molded and projected horizontal members that crown an architectural composition

imprecations - curses

entablature - the horizontal member above a column

railleries - banter that scolds or abuses

livres - French money

capital - the top part or piece of an architectural column

hirsute - hairy

apoplectic - apt to have a stroke

fagot - a bundle of sticks or twigs

stave - to smash a hole in

Book Three

Chapter 1 The Cathedral of Notre-Dame

precentor - a leader of the singing of a choir or congregation

gewgaws - a showy trifle; baubles, trinkets

ribands - ribbons

volute - a spiral or scroll-shaped decoration

alluvium - soil material deposited by running water

1. What is Hugo trying to accomplish in this chapter?

Chapter 2 A Bird's Eye View of Paris

sui generis - being in a class by itself

fiefs - feudal estates

crenallated - having battlements

cloven - split

portcullises - gratings at the gateway of a castle or fortress that can be let down to stop entrance

balustrade - a row of balusters topped by a rail

vermicelli - like worms

sardonic - disdainfully or skeptically humorous; derisively mocking

1. What do we learn about the city of Paris in this chapter?

Book 5

Chapter 1 - Abbas Beati Martini [Abbé of the Blessed Saint Martin]

philters - potions, drugs, or charms believed to arouse sexual passion

unguents - a soothing or healing salve

1. Who are the two visitors who come to see Claude Frollo?

2. What is the real identity of friend Tourangeau?

Chapter 2 - One Shall Destroy the Other

corollary - a deduction

savant - a learned person; scholar

pampas - wide grassy plains

dolmen - a prehistoric monument

concentric - having a common center

extirpate – to destroy completely

ubiquity – existing or being everywhere at the same time

aurora – a luminous phenomena of streamers or arches of light

1. What is the meaning of the statement, “One Shall Destroy the Other”?

2. What does Hugo consider the greatest event in history?

3. According to Hugo, what are the two books of humanity?

Chapter 5 - End of the Story of the Cake

1. What happens just as Quasimodo is released?

Book 7

Chapter 1 - On the Danger of Confiding One's Secret to a Goat

periphrasis - the use of unnecessary words to express an idea

sylph - an imaginary being inhabiting the air; a slender, graceful woman

trefoils - decorative designs with three leaf-like parts

garrison - a military post

baldric - a belt worn over the shoulder to carry a sword or bugle

wainscotings - wooden linings of an interior wall of a room

1. What happens when Fleur-de-Lys invites Esmeralda into her home?
2. What is Esmeralda's "secret"?

Book Nine

Chapter 1 - Delirium

vitiated - contaminated

hamlet - small village

chandler- a dealer in provisions of a specified kind; originally a candlemaker

perdition - eternal damnation

1. Dom Claude does not know that Quasimodo has rescued Esmeralda. Why?
2. What does Claude see when he returns to the cathedral?

Chapter 2 - Hunchbacked, One-eyed, Lamé

1. We learn about the tradition of sanctuary in the Middle Ages in this chapter. What are the conditions that must be met?
2. What literary term is used in the phrase explaining how the lawmakers feared the church: "...the gown had but a poor chance against the cassock"?
3. What odd question does Esmeralda ask Quasimodo?
4. Who is in her room besides Quasimodo?

Book Eleven

Chapter 1 - The Little Shoe

taciturn - disinclined to talk

loquacious - talkative

flambeaux - a flaming torch

torpor - extreme sluggishness

1. What statement does Gringoire make about Fate when they are escaping from the cathedral in the boat?
2. After Gringoire slips away with Djali, and Esmeralda is left alone with the unknown man, he pulls her toward the Place de Grève. What happens? How is this new relationship discovered?
3. Does the discovery of Esmeralda's true mother seem too coincidental or does it make sense to you?
4. How does Esmeralda give herself away?

Chapter 2 - The Beautiful Creature Clad in White

sanguinary - accompanied by bloodshed

1. What does Quasimodo see that causes him to push him Dom Claude from the tower?
2. What does Quasimodo say when he looks at Claude Frollo and La Esmeralda?