“Fantine”

I. Portrayal of the French government/society

* government’s treatment of convicts
* society’s treatment of convicts
* examples

II. Depiction of the Church

* the bishop and his treatment of JVJ
* the effect of the bishop’s treatment on JVJ

III. Jean Valjean’s (JVJ)Past

* his family
* his crime
* his prison experience and the affect on his spirit

IV. Significance of the scene with Petit Gervais

V. Father Madeleine

* how does the community treat him/think of him?
* Madeleine’s habits and personality
* his progression as a person/ give examples
* Champmathieu affair and its significance
* Javert and his attitude toward criminals

Vi. Fantine

* note her progression in predicament
* What is Hugo saying about French society?
* why does Fantine initially hate JVJ?

VII. Thenardier’s

* social class and its attributes
* Thenardier’s previous occupation

“Cosette”

I. Jean Valjean

* note evidence of his transformation
* his finances

II. Cosette

* the effects of abuse/neglect and love

III. Depiction of the Church

* Father Fauchelevent and the nuns

“Marius”

I. Marius’s Family

* relationship between Marius’s grandfather/aunt and his father
* why is the relationship this way?
* Marius’s father’s background and feelings for his son
* what contact did father and son have?

II. Sister vs. Sister

* the differences between the Gillenormand sisters

III. The Effect of Colonel Pontmercy’s Death on Marius

* his family relations and lodgings
* his activities
* his connection with the Thenardier’s

IV. Marius’s Contact with Cosette

* where Marius saw her
* Marius’s nickname for Jean Valjean and his name for Cosette

V. The Thenardier’s

* where and how they are living
* what are they doing to survive?
* how did Jean Valjean and Marius become involved with the Thenardier’s?
* Thenardier’s plan for Jean Valjean and its results

“Saint Denis & Idyl at the Rue Plument”

I. Eponine

* who is she, and what is her connection to Marius?
* her actions at the barricade

II. Jean Valjean

* why does he leave the convent?
* living arrangements in the outside world
* the effect Marius has on Jean Valjean’s spiritual development

III. Cosette

* her relationship with Jean Valjean
* her transformation
* her feelings for Marius
* her re-attachment to Jean Valjean

IV. The Escape

* why does Jean Valjean want to leave Paris? (three reasons)

V. The Barricade

* why is Marius there?
* who is Gavroche, and who is the prisoner?
* what are the rebels fighting for?

“Jean Valjean”

I. Jean Valjean

* how many lives does JVJ save at the barricade and how?
* who does JVJ meet in the sewers?
* why does JVJ not reveal his identity to Marius and his family when he returns Marius?

II. Marius and Cosette

* how does JVJ make sure Cosette’s marriage is legal?
* why does he separate himself from Cosette?
* who reveals JVJ’s true identity and why?

III. Outcomes for the following characters: Gavroche, Eponine, Thenardier

IV. Plot Resolution/Denouement

* why did Hugo end the novel this way?
* do you understand and forgive Marius and Cosette’s actions concerning JVJ?