

# *Les Misérables*

*by Victor Hugo*

**An Adaptation via Thinking Processes Affording  
Joy in Learning and Logical Analysis**

**an *auto*SOCRATIC QUICK-START publication**

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*The French Revolution*  
**A BRIEF HISTORY**



# The Fall of a Monarchy

An absolute monarchy has ruled France for centuries.

Massive debt and economic problems plagued France in the late 18th century.

Those in power are often blamed for the miseries of the country.

King Louis XVI and his Queen Marie Antoinette were not only in power, but indifferent to the plights of the country.

King Louis XVI and his Queen Marie Antoinette were beheaded (in 1793).

# The Reign of Terror

The fall of the Bourbon Monarchy and the rise of the First Republic had many promises for the "average person".

Promises are easy to make, but often difficult to keep.

The average French person was discontent.

The French region was still in a state of flux.

A Committee of Public Safety was formed in 1793 to suppress internal counter-revolutionary activities.

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# Jean Valjean

Jean Valjean, 1795, was living with his sister and her seven children.

Jean Valjean only makes 18 sous a day as a pruner and other various jobs.

18 sous is not a lot of money to feed nine people.

In a bad season when his services are not needed, money - and food - was scarce.

Jean Valjean broke a baker's window to steal some bread.



# A Simple Theft

Jean Valjean stole some bread from a bakery at night, with a gun on him.

Burglary at night with firearms is a serious offense.

Jean Valjean was sentenced to five years prison at Toulon.

He tried to escape three times, each time caught with his sentence extended.

Jean Valjean was a free man - after 19 years in prison in Toulon.

# Liberation is Not Deliverance

Jean Valjean, free from prison after 19 years, looked for food and lodging.

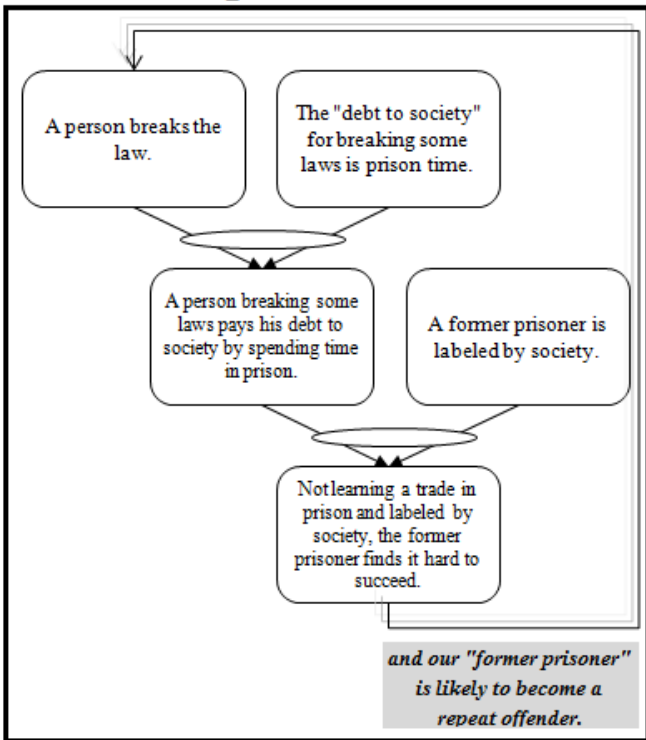
Being released from prison meant carrying a yellow passport.

Jean Valjean, carrying a yellow passport, was not welcomed.

Jean Valjean was told to see the Bishop who helps all, at a local church.

The Bishop and his wife allowed Jean Valjean to eat and stay.

# The Origin of Recidivism



# A Theft from the Church

The Bishop let Jean Valjean eat and stay at the church.

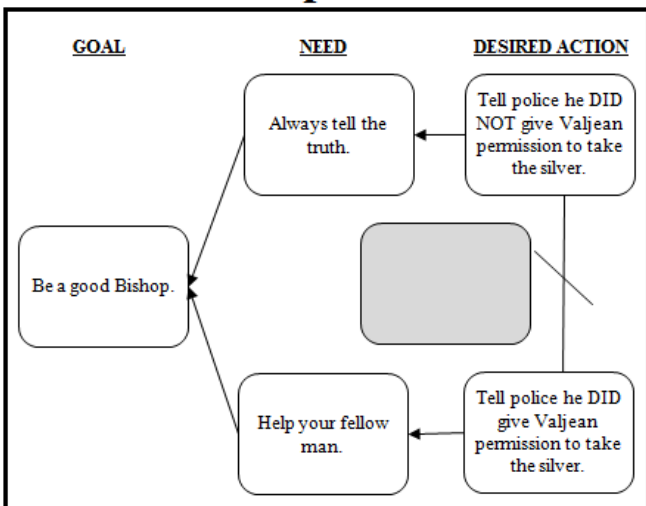
There are valuable items at the church.

The tempted Valjean stole valuable church silver during the night.

Valjean is caught by gendarmes (police) and brought back to the church.

The bishop is asked by police about the silver.

# The Bishop's Dilemma



The police capture Valjean and the silver, return to the Bishop, and say, "He says you gave him the silver. IS THIS TRUE?" It's not true, of course, so why wouldn't the Bishop say this? He wants to help his fellow man?

That sounds good, but let's suppose Valjean is a murderer, and after you've literally let him go, he murders again. What liability do you have? Who weeps for the innocent victim?

# A Good Man!

Jean Valjean expected to be sent to prison.

The Bishop lied - on Jean Valjean's behalf!

Jean Valjean remained a free man!

The Bishop said Valjean no longer belonged to evil, but to good!

Jean Valjean was not only a free man, but he was a good man!

# A Mother's Lament

Fantine's husband has died, and Fantine must look for work.

Fantine has a young girl, Cosette.

To find work means finding someone to take care of Cosette.

Fantine happens upon a "day-care", run by the Thenardier's.

Fantine can look for work, secure in her thought Cosette is taken care of.

# "Monsieur Madeleine"

There is a factory making jet-work in Montfermeil.

Jean Valjean, now Monsieur Madeleine, has found ways to fix the ailing company.

The company is profitable, with lower prices and higher wages.

Fantine is looking for a job, with Cosette "safely" with a day-care.

Fantine finds work at Monsieur Madeleine's company in Montfermeil.



# Fantine's Misfortune

Fantine finds work at Monsieur Madeleine's factory.

Fantine's background is objectionable.

Fantine is fired by the company, but blames Monsieur Madeleine.

Unable to find work, Fantine turns to prostitution and is caught by Javert.

With a 6-month sentence, Fantine blames Monsieur Madeleine for her fate.

# The Return of Javert

Father Fauchelevant became jealous MM became wealthy while he became broke.

Father Fauchelevant has fallen under a heavy wagon.

Only Monsier Madeleine is strong enough to lift the wagon.

Javert is there, and says he has only seen one man with such strength: Jean

Saving Father Fauchelevant likely means Monsier Madeleine will reveal his identity to Javert.

# "Jean Valjean" Captured!

The feat of strength convinced Javert Monsieur Madeleine was Jean Valjean.

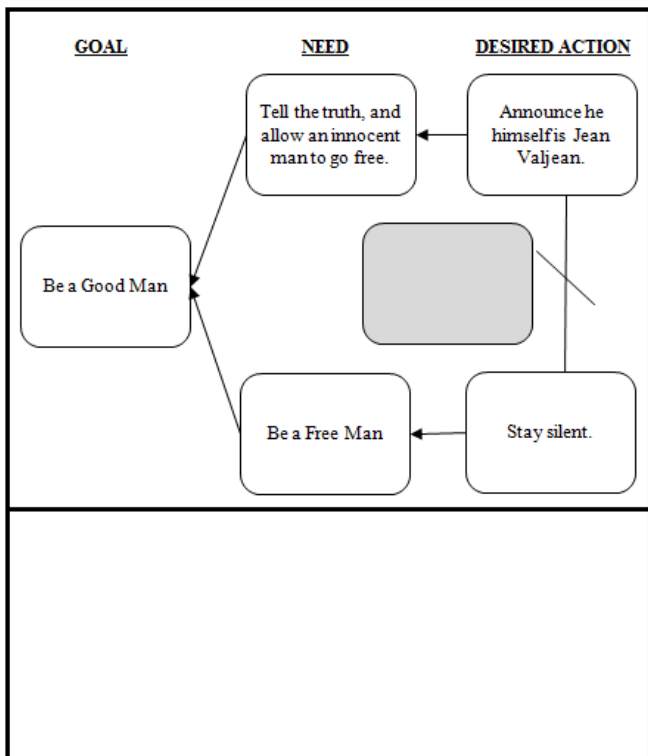
Javert denounced Monsieur Madeleine to the Paris Police

The police said he was wrong, because the real Jean Valjean had just been arrested.

Javert tenders his resignation to Monsieur Madeleine, with apologies.

Monsier Ma deleine, aka Jean Valjean, knows there is injustice a foot.

# Monsieur Madeleine's Dilemma



# Imprisoned Again

Monsieur Madeleine confesses he is Jean Valjean.

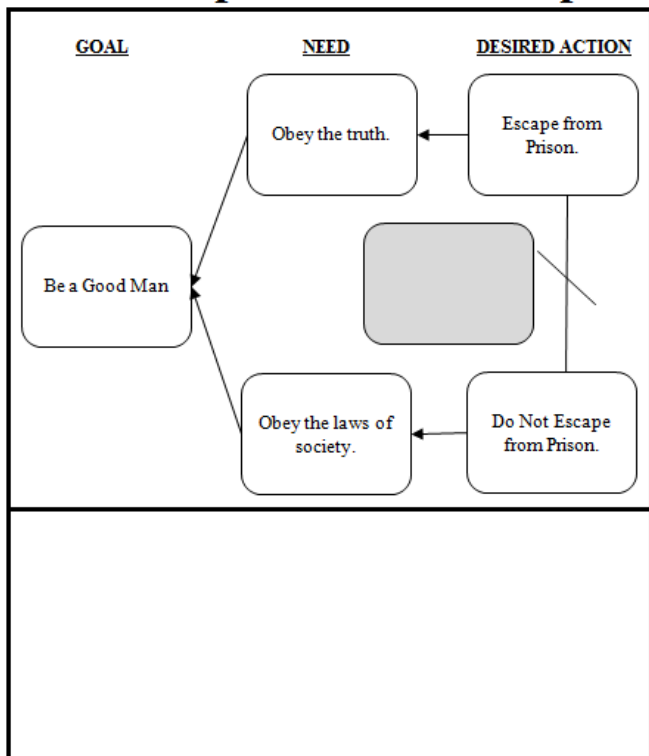
He made a promise to Fantine to retrieve Cosette.

Valjean pleads with Javert for three days freedom to retrieve Cosette.

Javert cares little for empathy, only for justice.

Cosette stays with the Thenardier's, Fantine dies, and Valjean is imprisoned.

# To Escape or Not to Escape



# With Cosette

As a prisoner, Valjean fakes drowning while unloading a ship, and escapes.

Valjean made a promise to Fantine to find Cosette.

Valjean goes to the Thenardier's and gets Cosette.

Valjean is a wanted man.

They are taken in, coincidentally by old Fauchlevant (Valjean saved his life!)

# A Home in the Covenant

Fauchlevant now lives at a Covenant where Monsieur Madeleine found him a house.

Fauchlevant owes Jean Valjean a favor.

Fauchlevant agrees to take them in, with Cosette joining the Covenant.

One must have proper credentials to stay at the Covenant.

Fauchlevant agrees to lie about who Jean Valjean and Cosette are.



# Marius Pontmercy

At the Battle of Waterloo, Pontmercy is named Colonel.

The French do not recognize Pontmercy as a colonel.

His father, Monsier Gillenormand, is ashamed to call him son.

Pontmercy has a new child, Marius Pontmercy.

Gillenormand demands he be given custody of Marius, or be disinherited.

# A Debt to Thenardier

Marius learns his father is about to die in Paris and goes to see him.

Marius believes his father, "Colonel" Pontmercy, abandoned him.

Marius cares little his father has died just before Marius got there.

A deathbed note of Pontmercy says Thenardier saved his life in the War.

Marius is indebted to Thenardier to help him whenever he can.

# Jettisoned from the House

Marius learns his father was a Baron in the war.

His grandfather, Monsier Gillenormand, dislikes that side of the war.

A rift opens between Marius and Gillenormand.

Marius is now proud of his father, and has "Baron" cards made for himself.

Gillenormand banishes Marius Pontmercy from the house.

# Coincidence Again

Marius moves to Luxembourg in northeast France.

The Jondrette's, a family living next to Marius, live in abject poverty.

Though Marius lives in poverty, his neighbors, the Jondrette's, are the "Les Miserables".

The Jondrette's are really the Thenadier's!

Marius is living next to the man who saved his father's life!

# False Inquiry

Marius sees Monsieur Leblanc and his daughter, and is in love.

Marius follows them home one day and seeks to find out who they are.

Monsieur Leblanc (Jean Valjean) is told of Marius' inquiries.

Leblanc, on the run from police, thinks the police are on to him.

The inquiries force Leblanc and Cosette to move.

# Les Miserables

Leblanc and Cosette help the needy - the "Les Miserables".

The Jondrettes, who live next to Marius, are needy.

Leblanc and Cosette visit the Jondrettes to help them with their poverty.

The Jondrettes are really the Thenadiers, and recognize Leblanc as Monsier Madeline.

The Thenadiers know Leblanc has a lot of money.

# Marius in a Bind

The Jondrettes  
(Thena diers) know  
Leblanc has a lot of  
money.

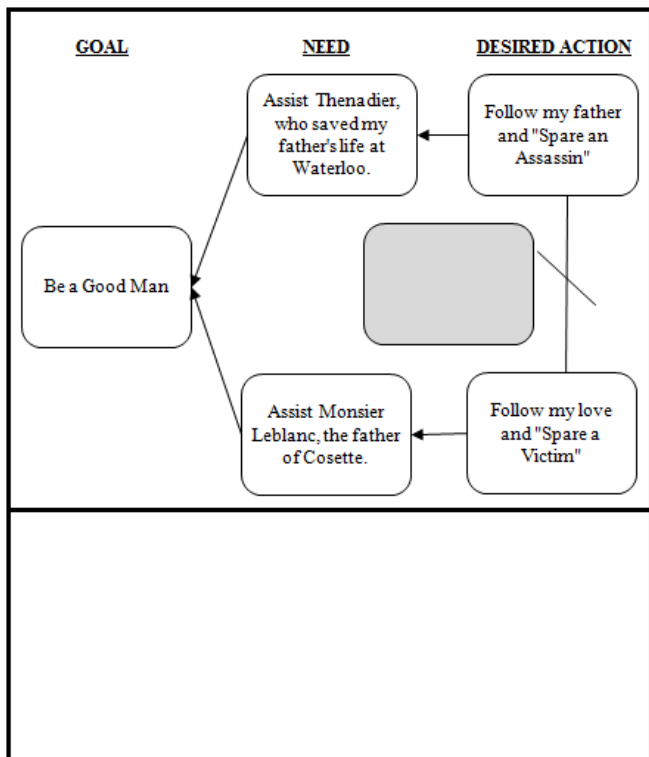
Marius overhears the  
plan to get money  
from Leblanc.

Marius should help  
Leblanc.

Marius overhears the  
conversation and  
knows Jondrette is  
Thena dier.

Marius is caught in a  
bind - assist Leblanc  
or assist Thena dier?

# A Debt to Who?





*A Little More French  
History*



# The Rise & Fall of Napoleon

The 1789 French Revolution was a revolt against Absolute Monarchy.

Napoleon appointed himself Emperor in 1804.

The First Republic ran from 1789-1804.

Napoleon waged war against European powers.

European Powers deposed Napoleon (1814) and restored the Bourbon Monarchy.

# The 1832 Rebellion

The economic situation in France was bad.

There was a tremendous cholera outbreak in France.

Circumstances in France in 1832 were bad.

Jean Maximillien Lemarque, lawmaker and outspoken critic of the Bourbon Monarchy, died in June.

Many sympathetic to Lemarque used his funeral as an opportunity for rebellion.

# Death at the Barricade

Marius knows he will die, with the other rebels, at the Barricade.

Marius wants Cosette to know how much she meant to him,

Marius writes a letter, and tells Gavroche to deliver the letter to Cosette.

Jean Valjean answers the door, and takes possession of the letter.

Jean Valjean knows the truth about Cosette and Marius.

# Problem Solved

Jean Valjean has been dreading Cosette falling in love with a young man.

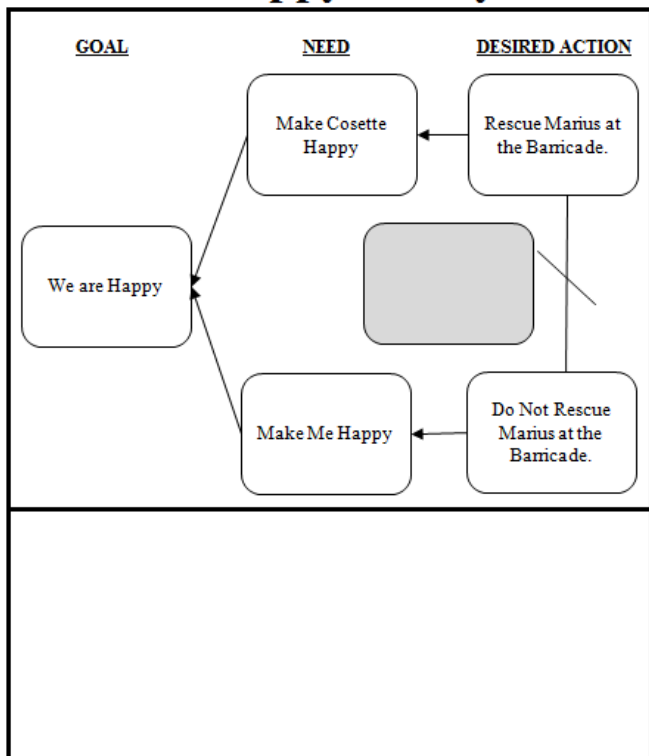
The young man who Cosette has fallen in love with will die tonight.

Jean Valjean's problem is solved.

Jean Valjean wants Cosette to be happy.

Jean Valjean thinks over the dilemma

# A Happy Family



# At the Barricade

Javert has been arrested at the Barricade, as a spy, and will be executed.

Jean Valjean has arrived at the Barricade, and sees Javert.

Jean Valjean volunteers to execute Javert.

Jean Valjean knows Javert has just been doing his job.

Jean Valjean fires a shot into the air, and allows Javert to go free.



# Escape from the Barricade

Marius has been badly wounded at the Barricade.

The only escape is through the filthy underground sewer system.

Jean Valjean carries Marius to freedom through the sewer system.

At tunnel's end, Valjean runs into Thena dier, who holds the key to the tunnel

Thena dier, not recognizing Valjean, sells the key to Valjean.

# Javert at the Tunnel

Javert has recognized any escape from the Baricade will come the route of the sewer.

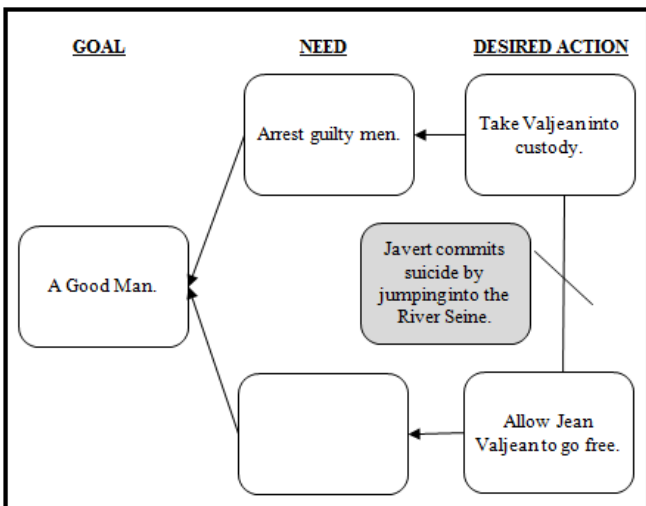
Thenadier, pursued by police himself, has steered Valjean towards Javert.

Javert takes possession of Valjean and Marius.

Jean Valjean asks only that he can take Marius home, and say goodbye to Cosette.

Javert complies, and then allows Valjean to go free.

# Javert's Dilemma



"One thing had astonished him, that Jean Valjean had spared him, and one thing had petrified him, that he, Javert, had spared Jean Valjean."

Javert felt that something horrible was penetrating his soul, admiration for a convict. Unnatural state, if ever there was one. There were only two ways to get out of it. One, to go resolutely to Jean Valjean and to return the man of the galleys to the dungeon. The other -----"

# The Marriage - The Truth

Marius and Cosette  
plan to marry.

Jean Valjean does not  
want his past to taint  
the marriage.

Jean Valjean fakes an  
injury, so as not to be  
in the wedding at all.

Jean Valjean tells  
Marius his true past.

Marius and Valjean  
agree it best Valjean  
stay away from  
Cosette.

# Extortion

Thena dier attempts to extort money from Marius by exposing Valjean.

Extortion is impossible when Marius knows about Valjean's past.

Thena dier attempts to extort by way of the incident in the sewer.

Marius only now realizes it was Jean Valjean who carried him to safety.

Marius has newfound love for Jean Valjean.

# The Whole Truth

Marius has newfound love for Jean Valjean.

Marius believes Jean Valjean killed both Javert and Monsieur Madeleine.

Jean Valjean must still stay away from Cosette.

Thenadier says Valjean not only set Javert free, but that Valjean himself WAS Monsieur Madeleine!

Cosette and Marius go to Jean Valjean.



