

# Cyrano de Bergerac

## Characters

**Cyrano de Bergerac**—a poet, swordsman, playwright, musician, and soldier. He is unattractive because of an unusually large nose. Intelligent, honorable, yet insecure, he is an outspoken and opinionated critic who makes many enemies. He is in love with his cousin, Roxane.

**Christian de Neuville**—a young and handsome man, but he lacks wit. Christian is in love with Roxane, but struggles to find the words to woo her.

**Roxane**—exquisitely beautiful woman, highly intelligent, loved by three men. Roxane is Cyrano’s cousin; she has a soft spot for romance and poetry. Roxane is her nickname. Her full name is Magdeleine Robin.

**Compte de Guiche (Count)**—arrogant and dastardly nobleman. Married, but wants Roxane as his mistress.

**Ragueneau**—a poetry-loving pastry chef. He gives away pastries for poems. He is a friend of Cyrano.

**Le Bret**—Cyrano’s closest friend and confidant; soldier

**Lignière**—Christian’s friend; poet, drunkard, many enemies

**Carbon de Castel-Jaloux**—captain of Gascony Cadets. He is a talented leader and good friend of Cyrano.

**Montfleury**—large, untalented actor despised by Cyrano

**Carbon de Castel-Jaloux**—captain of Gascony Cadets. He is a talented leader and good friend of Cyrano

**Gascony Cadets**—a company of soldiers from South France

**Viscount de Valvert (Viscount)**—an arrogant nobleman who is set up by de Guiche to marry Roxane. He fights a duel with Cyrano.

**The Duenna**—an older woman who accompanies Roxane and serves in a role similar to a chaperone or governess. She has a sweet tooth.

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# Themes of Duality

## Inner beauty vs. outer beauty

- Cyrano represents inner beauty, demonstrating his wit, courage, and other virtues.
- Christian exemplifies external beauty, having an attractive physical appearance but lacking the intelligence of Cyrano.

### *Something to think about:*

- Which type of beauty, inner or outer, is more valued in our culture?
- Which type of beauty is more important to you?

## Deception vs. Honor

- *Cyrano* examines the limits of devotion, the appropriateness of deception, and the meaning of honor.

### *Something to think about:*

- Is it ever okay to lie?
- How might being in love test honor & devotion?

## Insecurity vs. Panache

- Both Cyrano and Christian express the dual qualities of Insecurity and Panache.

# Hierarchy of French Titles

1. *Duc* (Duke)
2. *Marquis* (Marquis)
3. *Comte* (Earl)
4. *Vicomte* (Viscount)
5. *Baron* (Baron)

Titles are passed down from generation to generation within a family. However, this hierarchy is not a guarantee of privilege.

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