

Name: \_\_\_\_\_.

Period \_\_\_\_\_.

## *Cyrano's Monologue: Paraphrasing Assignment*

**Act II**

**Points:           /90.**

In act 2, scene 8 the audience (reader) gains insight into Cyrano's character. Cyrano lays out the moral principles that he lives by through his responses to Le Bret. In at least 2 sentences paraphrase each quote in your own words. After each paraphrased principle, explain in 3 sentences whether or not you believe it is a good principle to live by. Explain your answers thoroughly! Make sure you use at least 5 sentences to respond to each quote and give examples to support your point. Elaborate!

### **Example:**

"What would you have me do? Cover myself with the protection of some powerful patron?"

Here Cyrano is telling Le Bret that he will not depend on some rich and powerful person to protect him. Cyrano is planning to protect himself.

Cyrano's principle is a good principle to live by because it allows for freedom. If Cyrano were to depend on some rich patron for protection then he would be indebted to that person. However, because Cyrano doesn't depend on anyone to protect him he is free to live how he pleases and does not have to answer to anyone for his actions, other than himself.

**\*Each principle is worth 5 points each – 2 points for paraphrasing it and 3 points for explaining if it is a good principle or not.**

1. "But what would you have me do? ...Imitate the ivy that licks the bark of a tall tree while entwining itself around its trunk, and make my way upward by guile, rather than climbing by my own strength? No, thank you."
2. "But what would you have me do? ...Dedicate poems to financiers, as so many others do?"

3. “But what would you have me do? ...Change myself into a buffoon in the hope of seeing a minister give me a condescending smile? No, thank you.”
4. “But what would you have me do? ...Swallow insults every day? Crawl till the skin on my belly is rubbed raw? Dirty my knees and make my spine as limber as an eel’s? No, thank you.”
5. “But what would you have me do? ...Develop the art of sitting on both sides of a fence at once? Pay for an ounce of favor with a tone of flatter? No, thank you.”
6. “But what would you have me do? ...Use women as stepping stones? Make headway in the sea of life with madrigals for oars and the sighs of old ladies for the wind in my sails? No, thank you.”
7. “But what would you have me do? ...Have poetry published at my own expense? No, thank you.”
8. “But what would you have me do? ...Work to make a name for myself with one sonnet, instead of writing others? No, thank you.”

9. “But what would you have me do? ...Be always scheming and afraid of schemes. No, thank you.”
10. “But what would you have me do? ...Seek introductions to the useful people? No, thank you.”
11. “I prefer to lead a different kind of life. I sing, dream, laugh, and go where I please, alone and free.”
12. “My eyes see clearly and my voice is strong. I am quarrelsome or benign as it suits my pleasure, always ready to fight a duel or write a poem at the drop of a hat.”
13. “I dream of flying to the moon but give no thought to fame or fortune.”

14. "I write only what comes out of myself, and make it my modest rule to be satisfied with whatever flowers, fruit, or even leaves I gather, as long as they're from my own garden."
15. "Then if I should happen to gain some small success I'm not obliged to render any of it unto Caesar."
16. "I acquired {the habit of making enemies} by watching others make multitudes of friends and laugh at them behind their backs!"
17. "It pleases me to displease. I love to be hated. If you only knew how stimulating it is to be under the murderous fire of hostile eyes, and how amusing it is to watch faces turn venomous with envy or sweaty with fear!"
18. "The hatred that presses in upon me is like a starched Spanish ruff whose stiffness forces me to hold my head high. Each new enemy is a pleat that constrains me still more, yet adds to my splendor, because hatred is both a yoke and a halo of glory!"

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# What's Love got to do with it?

*Act III*

**Points:** 50.

In act 3 Cyrano pours his heart out to Roxanne telling her how he loves her and explaining what he believes love is. Paraphrase each passage below in your own words and then address the statements for each passage. Explain your answers using specific examples to support your points. Make sure your responses are elaborate!

**You will receive 5 points for paraphrasing the quote and 5 points for addressing topic.**

## **Example:**

“My heart always timidly hides itself behind my mind. I set out to bring down stars from the sky, then, for fear of ridicule, I stop and pick little flowers of eloquence.” Paraphrase the quote and explain what these lines tell the audience about Cyrano’s feelings.

Cyrano is telling Roxanne that he doesn’t express his true feelings. Instead, he says smart and clever things about love, because he is afraid that his real feelings will not be accepted. Instead of doing something great and showing her how he really feels he simply says pretty things that he thinks she will like.

These lines tell the reader that Cyrano is afraid to be vulnerable. Cyrano is afraid that his true feeling won’t be well received and so he says eloquent things that he thinks will win Roxanne over.

1. “I used pretty phrases at first, to make you listen to me, but now it would be an insult to this fragrant night, this moment, and nature herself, if I were to speak with the affected elegance of a courtly love letter!” Paraphrase the quote and explain what these lines tell the audience about Cyrano’s feelings.
2. “One look at the starry sky above us is enough to make me want to throw off all artificiality. If the expression of feeling is refined too much, the feeling itself is lost. The soul is emptied by such vain pastimes, and love dies, smothered under a mass of flowery words that were meant to embellish it.” Paraphrase the quote and explain whether or not you agree with Cyrano’s claim.

3. "It [elegant language] has no place in true love! It's only a game, and those who love will suffer if they play it too long. For most of them there comes a time - and I pity those for whom it doesn't come! - when they feel a noble love inside themselves that's saddened by every grandiloquent word they say." Paraphrase the quote and explain whether or not you agree with Cyrano's claim.
  
4. "The feeling that holds me in its merciless grip could be nothing else but love! It has all the terrible jealousy and somber violence of love, and all the unselfishness, too. How gladly I would give my happiness for the sake of yours, even without your knowledge, asking only to hear from a distance, now and then, the laughter born of my sacrifice!" Paraphrase the quote and explain what these lines tell the audience about Cyrano's feelings.
  
5. "Each time I look at you, you strengthen my courage and bring forth some new virtue." Paraphrase the quote and explain what these lines tell the audience about Cyrano's feelings.