

The Count of Monte Cristo

Alexandre Dumas

Why does the hidden casket matter before Dantès even opens it?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	The casket confirms Faria's theory
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	Chapter 24 · The Secret Cave
START	After several blows he perceived that the stones were not cemented
END	There was no longer any doubt: the treasure was there—no one would have been at such pains to conceal an empty casket.
PASSAGE ID	sec-mc-03

THE MOVE

Use material evidence to close a chain of inference

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Before the casket is opened, its construction and concealment already make an empty box unlikely. The material evidence closes a chain of inference: someone invested too much effort in hiding it for nothing to be there.

MARK

Underline the physical signs that the hiding place was deliberately constructed. Circle the details of the casket itself. Star the observation that lets Dantès infer treasure before seeing the contents.

NOTICE

- What facts about the hiding place require purposeful human effort?

- Why does deliberate concealment make an empty casket less plausible?
- How does material evidence confirm Faria's theory before the final object is revealed?

THINK

Answer provisionally: Why does the hidden casket matter before Dantès even opens it? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: Why does the hidden casket matter before Dantès even opens it? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	The casket matters before opening because deliberate concealment is itself evidence. Hidden masonry, a second chamber, iron binding, and family markings make an empty container increasingly implausible.
EVIDENCE	Use the constructed hiding place and physical features of the casket to explain what can be inferred before contents are seen.
WATCH FOR	Do not use the later treasure as retroactive proof only. Show how material evidence supports the inference in advance.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

STUDENT PAGE · SAME PASSAGE, SAME THINKING

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START ANCHOR	After several blows he perceived that the stones were not cemented
END ANCHOR	There was no longer any doubt: the treasure was there—no one would have been at such pains to conceal an empty casket.

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OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. **MARK** - Underline the physical signs that the hiding place was deliberately constructed. Circle the details of the casket itself. Star the observation that lets Dantès infer treasure before seeing the contents.
2. **NOTICE** - What facts about the hiding place require purposeful human effort? Why does deliberate concealment make an empty casket less plausible? How does material evidence confirm Faria's theory before the final object is revealed?
3. **THINK** - Answer provisionally: Why does the hidden casket matter before Dantès even opens it?
4. **WRITE** - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.