**Notes on Marius**

*Les Miserables*

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| **Georges Pontmercy** | **M. Gillenormand** | **Marius** |
| Marius’ father  He could be classified as a rebel or at least a liberal. He looks for change in the previously corrupt government and fights for the new emperor. | Marius’ grandfather  He dislikes his son-in-law, Pontmercy, because their political views are so different. Gillenormand has conservative views. | Marius’ mother dies in childbirth.  His grandfather threatens to take away Marius’ inheritance unless Pontmercy gives him his son. |
| Colonel in the Napoleonic Army.  During the French Revolution, several factions fought against the monarchy of France, demanding a change in the way the country was being run. This liberal view resulted in the first French Republic.  Many different political parties wanted to take control of the vulnerable French government. Eventually, Napolean became the Emperor of France. He led his army through several battles against Prussia, Russia, Portugal, and Germany. | A Monarchist  Monarchists believed in and supported the royal family. Remember that a rift grew between the haves and the have-nots of France before the French Revolution. The royals and the rich were taxed little and lived in decadence. The working class people were taxed greatly, and the poor were starving.  Because Gillenormand is rich, he does not experience the wretched conditions in France. He likes his lavish lifestyle and believes in “the old ways” of running the country. | Confused about his political views  Marius is raised by his grandfather, so he grows up believing in the monarchy. Unlike most of our other characters, Marius has a privileged upbringing. His grandfather is wealthy.    However, when Marius finds out who his father is, he starts to research and believe in his father’s political views. |
| He agrees to give his son to Gillenormand, thinking this was the best thing for Marius. However, he loves and misses his son greatly. | Gillenormand loves Marius, too, but he is not an emotional person. Rather than show his affection for his grandson, he scolds him, preaches to him, and makes fun of him in an attempt to communicate.  He keeps Pontmercy a secret from Marius, never sharing the father’s letters to his son. Gillenormand speaks negatively about Pontmercy and his views. He allows no contact between father and son. | Marius finds out after his father’s death that Pontmercy loved him very much. He wants to know as much as possible about his father, and he starts to adopt Pontmercy’s political views.  Part of Marius’ new-found belief system could also be rebellion against everything that his grandfather holds to be true. Marius is angry with his grandfather for the secrets that Gillenormand has kept. |