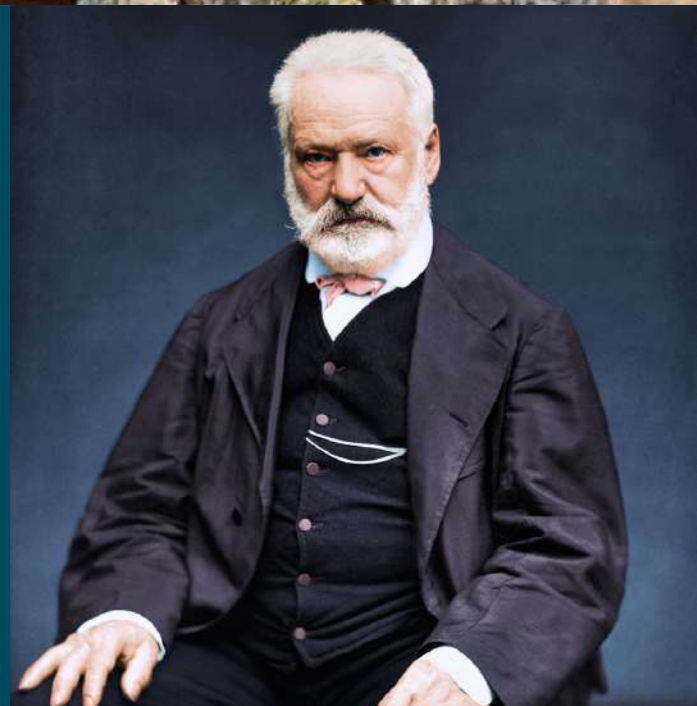


# Speak Out for Freedom and Human Rights



**Les Misérables**  
**Victor Hugo**  
**(1802-1885)**



# Getting to know the character



## Jean Valjean

**”I know the meaning of  
those 19 years.”**

**”A slave of the law.”**

The protagonist of the novel. Convicted for stealing a loaf of bread to feed his sister's seven starving children and sent to prison for five years, he is paroled from prison nineteen years later.

## Cosette

**”I know a place  
where no one's lost.  
I know a place  
where no one  
cries.”**

The illegitimate daughter of Fantine. From approximately the age of three to the age of eight, she is beaten and forced to work as a drudge for the Thénardiens.

