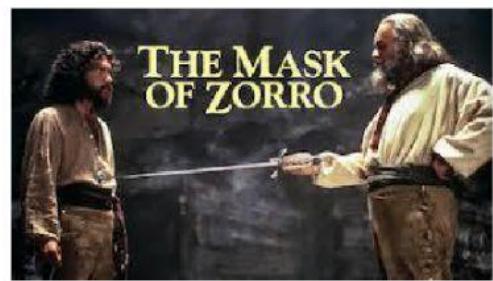


The Mask of Zorro



In 1821, Don Diego de la Vega, a Spanish-born California nobleman, fights _____ soldiers in the Mexican War of Independence as Zorro, a mysterious masked swordsman who _____ the Mexican peasants and commoners of Las Californias. Don Rafael Montero, the _____ governor of the region, learns of De La Vega's alter ego and _____ to arrest him. De La Vega's wife Esperanza, whom Montero was _____, is killed during the ensuing scuffle. Montero imprisons de La Vega and takes his infant daughter, Elena, as his own before returning to Spain.

Twenty years later, Montero returns to California as a civilian, _____ Elena who has grown into a beautiful woman and _____. Her late mother. Montero's reappearance motivates de La Vega to escape from prison. He _____ a thief named Alejandro Murrietta, who, as a child, saved Zorro's life during his last fight. De la Vega decides that fate has brought them together, and agrees to make Alejandro his protégé, grooming him to be the new Zorro. Alejandro agrees to _____ de La Vega's training regimen in Zorro's secret cave _____. The ruins of his family estate in order to be able to take revenge on Captain Harrison Love, Montero's right-hand man, who was responsible for killing Alejandro's brother, Joaquin.



While still being trained, Alejandro steals a black stallion resembling Zorro's steed Tornado from the local garrison. De La Vega _____ Alejandro, claiming that Zorro was a servant of the people, not a thief and adventurer. He challenges Alejandro to gain Montero's _____ instead. Alejandro poses as a visiting nobleman named Don Alejandro del Castillo y García, with de la Vega as his servant "Bernardo", and _____ a party at Montero's hacienda. At the party, he gains Elena's admiration and enough of Montero's trust to be invited to a secret meeting where several other noblemen are present. Montero hints at a plan to retake California for the Dons and _____ it as an independent republic by buying it from General Santa Anna, who needs money for the _____ Mexican-American War.



Montero takes Alejandro and the noblemen to a secret gold mine known as "El Dorado", where _____ and prisoners are used for slave labor. Montero plans to buy California from Santa Anna using gold mined from Santa Anna's own land. De la Vega, as the servant "Bernardo", uses this opportunity to become closer to Elena, and learns that

Montero told Elena that her mother died in _____. While walking in a market, Elena meets the woman who was her nanny who tells Elena her parents' real identity. De la Vega sends Alejandro, now officially wearing the _____ of Zorro, to steal Montero's map leading to the gold mine. Zorro duels Montero, Love, and their guards at the hacienda. When Zorro escapes, Elena attempts to _____ Montero's map from the swordsman, but he seduces her, leading to a passionate kiss before he _____.

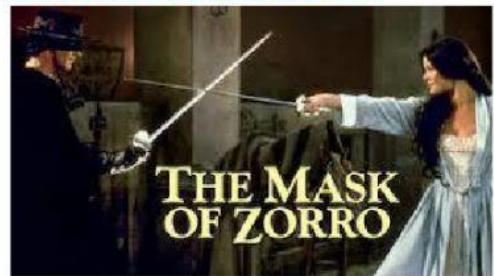
Terrified of Santa Anna's _____ if he discovers that he is being paid with his own gold, Montero, at Love's urging, decides to destroy the mine and kill the workers. De la Vega tells Alejandro to release the workers on his own so that de La Vega can reclaim Elena. Alejandro sets off, feeling betrayed by Diego's vendetta. De la Vega corners Montero at the hacienda and reveals his identity, but Montero captures him by

_____ to shoot him in front of Elena. As he is taken away, de la Vega tells Elena the name of the flowers, *romneya*, that she recognized

upon her arrival in California, convincing her that he is her father. She releases de la Vega from his cell and they proceed to the mine, where Alejandro and de la Vega respectively defeat and slay Love and Montero,

_____ both Joaquin and Esperanza. Elena and Alejandro free the workers before the explosives _____, and then find the mortally wounded de la Vega. He makes peace with Alejandro and Elena and gives his _____ for Alejandro to marry his daughter before dying.

Sometime later, Alejandro and Elena are married, and Alejandro tells stories to their infant son, Joaquin, whom he named after his brother, of his grandfather's heroic deeds and legacy as Zorro.



Finish these sentences

1. de La Vega's last fight as Zorro was during _____ ;
2. On that occasion young Alejandro _____
3. Montero has a grudge against de La Vega because _____
4. During de La Vega and Montero's fight _____
5. Before returning to Spain, Montero _____
6. Montero and Elena return to California _____
7. de La Vega trains Alejandro so that he _____
8. Montero plans _____
9. He intends to achieve this by _____
10. Eventually he orders _____
11. In the end, both Alejandro and de La Vega manage _____
12. As a result of a fight, de La Vega _____
13. Alejandro and Elena _____
14. Alejandro tells little Joaquin _____

