Alexandre Dumas was French.They were officials in the government of the Dutch Republic.And in 1672, William, Prince of Orange, became Stadtholder of the Dutch Republic.Alexandre Dumas' most famous stories are: The Three Musketeers (1844), Twenty Years After (1845), The Count of Monte Cristo (1844–1845), The Viscount of Bragelonne (1844–1850) and The Black Tulip (1850).These states were Holland, Zeeland, Utrecht, Gelderland, Friesland, Groningen and Overijssl.Dumas died on 5th December 1870 at Puys, near Dieppe, in northern France.In the middle of the nineteenth century, Alexandre Dumas heard two interesting stories about the Nether- lands.Dumas started to write historical plays and novels.Then Dumas himself wrote a novel about the Netherlands in the 1670s.The area in the north was the Dutch Repub- lic.John and Cornelius De Witt did not want a new Stadtholder.In 1689, William became King of England, Scotland and Ireland and he moved to Britain.In the seventeenth century, many people in the Netherlands grew tulips.From the seventeenth century, thousands of Dutch people grew tulips.Then, the people planted their bulbs in the ground in the winter The flowers grew again in the spring Tulip flowers are many different colours.In the sev- enteenth century, many people tried to grow black tulips.He was born on 24th July 1802 in Villers-Cotterets, in northern France.He was one of the most popular French writers of the nineteenth century.Dumas liked good food, fine wines and beautiful women.He travelled to many countries.They were stories about the Netherlands in the seventeenth century.One of these stories was about two brothers, John and Cornelius De Witt.The brothers lived in The Hague in the seventeenth century.At that time, the Netherlands belonged to two countries.The Dutch Republic was often called the Seven States.Today, this area is sometimes called Holland and it is sometimes called the Netherlands.Earlier, the ruler of the Seven States had been the Stadtholder.There were battles on land and in ships at sea.The first tulips were brought to the Netherlands from Turkey in 1571.Stories; songs and poems were written about tulips.In the summer, they took the tulip bulbs out of the ground.They put the bulbs in 6 drying-rooms.There was going to be a big prize for the grower of the first black tulip.In the 1840s, Dumas read about the De Witts.And he heard stories about tulips in the Netherlands.His father was an important soldier – a general in Napoleon's army.Dumas' mother.was the daughter of an innkeeper.In 1823, Dumas went to Paris.Dumas became a famous man.Later, he owed money to many people.Place: The Netherlands.He put the two interesting stories into his new novel.The area in the south had belonged to Spain for many years.This was the Spanish Netherlands.Today, most of this area is called Belgium.Seven states were joined in this republic.The Hague was the capital city of the Seven States.Many people wanted a new ruler.But there 5 had not been a Stadtholder for some years.In the 1670s, some people wanted a new Stadtholder.But other people did not want a Stadtholder – they wanted a king.They wanted King Louis XIV of France.They put the De Witts in prison.On 27th August 1672, a crowd of angry people murdered the brothers.From 1672 to 1678, the Republic was at war with France and England.The French army fought the Dutch army.Soon, every- body in the Netherlands loved the flowers.Everybody wanted tulips.The land in the Netherlands is good.Tulips grow well there.They grew tulips in the ground, in the spring.He called the story, The Black Tulip:He wanted to become a lawyer.But he worked in the house of a rich man.They were exciting and they were successful.He spent a lot of money.He gave money to his friends.Then he had to write more books.He had to get more money.He was 68 years old.A Note About This, Story Time: 1671 to 1673.But France

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wanted this land, and in 1668, France took a large part of the land. In the 1670s, there was trouble in the Seven States. They wanted William, Prince of Orange. They were against the Prince of Orange. But most of the people wanted a new government. In 1677, William of Orange married an English princess. Then he wrote a romantic adventure story.

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