

**A TEACHER'S GUIDE TO THE
Signet Classic
edition of**

CHARLES DICKENS'

A TALE OF TWO CITIES

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INTRODUCTION

A Tale of Two Cities is an excellent choice of reading material for senior high school students. It is probably the least "Dickensian" of his fourteen novels in that it has less of the grotesque, fewer characters, more big scenes, and a less complicated plot. These differences make it especially accessible to high school students. Much of the novel's value lies in its structure, creativity, and explorations of timeless themes. As a historical novel, it serves as an excellent example of this genre. The fact that Dickens is able to weave the simple lives of ordinary people into the mosaic of a cataclysmic historical event is an indication of his genius, and another reason to read the book.

The themes that are explored in the novel still have relevance today. For example, the results of what happens when revenge is allowed to dictate behavior provides an important topic for students to explore. With the popularity of movies and television shows that glorify the actions of characters who step outside of the law to achieve revenge, classroom discussion on this topic should be lively.

The novel's descriptions of characters who put duty before desire in crisis situations also provides students with the basis for thought-provoking discussion as well as worthy role models. An important related theme is honor versus dishonor. Another important theme is the effect that corruption in the ruling class has on ordinary people. The lessons that the French Revolution gave us as an infant country are just as important today, and are worthy of young people's study in a non-threatening forum.

The organization of this teacher's guide is as follows: a brief overview followed by teaching ideas to be used before, during, and after the reading of the novel. These ideas are

meant to help students understand the novel and its characters, themes, and historical message, as well as explore issues dealt with in the novel that are important in students' lives today.

A TALE OF TWO CITIES: AN OVERVIEW

List of Characters

Jarvis Lorry—Banker at Tellson's Bank of London and a trusted friend of the Manettes.

Jerry Cruncher—"odd job man" for Tellson's and part-time grave robber.

Lucie Manette—Dr. Manette's daughter and Charles Darnay's wife.

Miss Pross—Lucie's servant who cared for Lucie during Dr. Manette's imprisonment.

Dr. Manette—Lucie's father who was unjustly imprisoned for eighteen years in Paris.

Charles Darnay—Lucie's husband who was sentenced to death because of the actions of his father and uncle, the Marquis St. Evermonde.

The Marquis St. Evermonde—Cruel member of the French aristocracy and Charles Darnay's uncle.

Sydney Carton—Drunken lawyer who takes Charles Darnay's place at the Guillotine.

Mr. Stryver—London trial lawyer who employed Sydney Carton.

Ernest Defarge—Paris wine shop owner and former servant of Dr. Manette who is also a leader of the French Revolution.

Madame Defarge—Wife of Ernest Defarge who records crimes against the people in her knitting. Her family was destroyed by the Marquis St. Evermonde.

Jacques III—Friend of the Defarges and a member of the French Revolution.

Vengeance—Female friend of Madame Defarge and a bloodthirsty member of the French Revolution.

John Barsard/Solomon Pross—Miss Pross's long lost brother who works for Roger Cly and helps Sydney Carton change places with Charles Darnay.

Roger Cly—English spy who testified against Charles Darnay in Darnay's London trial.

Gabelle—The caretaker of the Evermonde estate. His imprisonment brings Charles Darnay back to Paris.

Gaspard—He was hung for killing Darnay's uncle, the Marquis.

Synopsis

BOOK THE FIRST: Recalled to Life

- 1. The Period:** In the year 1775 conditions were brutal for the people of England and France. Both were ruled by a king and queen and the times were often violent and terrible. In France, the nobles lived in luxury and were sure that they and the king ruled by divine right and that nothing would ever change. The general populace suffered from starvation, disease, and deprivation and were growing impatient for change.
- 2. The Mail:** While in route from London to Paris by way of Dover, Mr. Lorry of Tellson's Bank receives a cryptic message from the bank's messenger, Jerry Cruncher. Mr. Lorry responds to the message, "Wait at Dover for Mam'selle," with his own cryptic reply, "RECALLED TO LIFE."
- 3. The Night Shadows:** Continuing his journey, Lorry holds imagined conversations with someone (Dr. Manette) about this person's feelings and future hopes after being buried for eighteen years.
- 4. The Preparation:** In Dover, Lorry meets Lucie Manette and informs her that he is going to take her to her father, whom she thought was dead. Lorry tells her that Dr. Manette is alive and has been released from prison in Paris where he has been for eighteen years.
- 5. The Wine-Shop:** In Paris, Lorry and Lucie go to Defarge's wine shop. Dr. Manette has been released to Defarge because he was once Manette's servant. Defarge is a key figure in the underground movement against the ruling government, and his wine shop is a central meeting place.
- 6. The Shoemaker:** Defarge takes Lorry and Lucie to Dr. Manette who is kept in a dark attic room. The Doctor does not remember his true name and occupation and now works as a cobbler. He remembers Lucie when he matches her hair with a few strands of her baby hair that he has kept with him in a ragged pouch worn around his neck. While Lucie holds him in

her arms, Defarge and Lorry go to make arrangements to take him from that room directly to England.

BOOK THE SECOND: The Golden Thread

- 1. Five Years Later:** Tellson's Bank in London is described as an old, dark, cramped establishment that takes pride in its ultra-conservative, unchanging appearance and attitude. In sharp contrast to this appearance is the bank's porter and messenger, Jerry Cruncher.
- 2. A Sight:** Jerry is directed to go to the court to act as a messenger for Mr. Lorry should he need one. Lorry is present at the trial of Charles Darnay who is charged with treason against England. Also at the trial are Dr. Manette and Lucie who are scheduled to be witnesses for the prosecution.
- 3. A Disappointment:** Mr. Stryver, Darnay's counsel, is able to discredit the Attorney General's witnesses with the help of his brilliant, if drunken, assistant Sydney Carton. Dr. Manette and Lucie testified that they had met Darnay five years earlier on their voyage from Paris to England when the Doctor was released from prison. Based on the supportive testimony of Dr. Manette and Lucie and the skill of his counsel, Charles Darnay is acquitted of all charges.
- 4. Congratulatory:** After the trial, Darnay gratefully thanks Stryver, Dr. Manette, and Lucie for their help in his acquittal. After the trial, Darnay and Carton go to dinner where Carton drinks heavily and confides to Darnay that he is a "disappointed drudge" who cares for no one and for whom no one cares.
- 5. The Jackal:** Carton goes to Stryver's quarters late at night where he analyzes Stryver's cases for him thus acting as "The Jackal" to Stryver the courtroom "Lion." Carton works and drinks steadily until three in the morning when he concludes his work for Stryver. Then he and Stryver drink for the rest of the night while Stryver outlines Carton's faults and weaknesses for him.
- 6. Hundreds of People:** Mr. Lorry has become good friends with Dr. Manette and visits him every Sunday. Miss Pross, Lucie's maidservant, complains to Lorry that they have hundreds of visitors every Sunday, but only Charles Darnay shows up to visit Lucie. Later in the afternoon, Sydney Carton also visits.
- 7. Monseigneur in Town:** After leaving the Monseigneur's party, the Monsieur the Marquis's carriage drives recklessly through the streets of Paris without regard to pedestrians. In its irresponsible flight, the carriage runs over and kills a small child. The Marquis blames the crowd that forms for not taking care of their children and worries that the accident may have harmed his horses. Confronted with the dead child's hysterical father, the Marquis tosses him a gold coin and orders his driver to move on.
- 8. Monseigneur in the Country:** Arriving home at his country estate, the Marquis learns that a tall, thin man has ridden from Paris to the Marquis's village on the chains underneath his carriage. Upon entering his estate, the Marquis finds that his nephew, Charles, has not yet arrived.
- 9. The Gorgon's Head:** The Marquis's nephew (Charles Darnay) arrives and the two argue about the family and its use of its social position. Darnay vows that if he inherits the estate, he will follow his mother's wishes and turn the estate over to the people who have for generations worked and suffered for it. His uncle shows nothing but scorn for him and his humanitarian plans. Later that night the Marquis is murdered in his bed by the man who stowed away underneath his carriage.
- 10. Two Promises:** A year later finds Charles Darnay prospering as a French tutor and translator in London. His love for Lucie Manette drives him to approach her father. He tells the Doctor of his love for Lucie and promises to never come between Lucie and the Doctor. The Doctor agrees to tell Lucie of Darnay's love only if she expresses her love for Darnay first. In response to the Doctor's promise, Charles tries to reveal to him his true name and past. Dr. Manette declines to hear his confession, and says he will only hear it on the morning of Lucie's marriage to Darnay. This exchange so upsets Dr. Manette that when Lucie returns, she finds him at work at his cobbler's bench.
- 11. A Companion Picture:** Stryver confides to Carton that he plans to marry Lucie and then advises Carton to marry a common woman with property to take care of him.

12. **The Fellow of Delicacy:** Stryver stops at Tellson's to inform Mr. Lorry of his intention to marry Lucie. Lorry advises against it and agrees to see if Dr. Manette and Lucie would be interested in her marrying Stryver. Stryver realizes that Lucie does not want him and salvages his pride by acting as if he doesn't wish to marry her anymore.
13. **The Fellow of No Delicacy:** Carton confesses to Lucie that he is beyond redemption even if she sees goodness in him. He goes on to tell her that he hopes his last good memory will be of her and promises to do anything he can to help her and those she loves if they should ever need his help.
14. **The Honest Tradesman:** Jerry Cruncher demonstrates that his description of himself as an "honest tradesman" is inaccurate when he engages in his night time job of grave robbing.
15. **Knitting:** Defarge helps the road mender who saw the Marquis's killer and his subsequent arrest, imprisonment, and hanging. Defarge and his compatriots put a death sentence on all of the Marquis's family, and this sentence is recorded by Madame Defarge in her knitting pattern.
16. **Still Knitting:** A government spy comes to Defarge's wine shop to try to gain information about the revolutionaries. The Defarges tell him nothing, but he tells them of Lucie's marriage to Charles Darnay.
17. **One Night:** On the eve of Lucie's marriage to Charles, she and her father talk about their relationship and how he imagined her while he was in prison.
18. **Nine Days:** Due to Lucie's marriage and the revelation that Charles made to him that morning, as soon as Charles and Lucie leave on their honeymoon, the Doctor reverts to the condition he was in while in prison. He remains withdrawn at his cobbler's bench for nine days.
19. **An Opinion:** On the tenth day, the Doctor returns to himself with no memory of the nine days. In an effort to help him, Mr. Lorry discusses the case with him in hypothetical terms. The Doctor is confident that he will remain well, but Lorry talks him into giving up the cobbler's tools just in case.
20. **A Plea:** Carton approaches Charles and asks that the two be friends. Charles agrees and then later promises Lucie that he will be more respectful of Carton in the future.
21. **Echoing Footsteps:** Years pass and Lucie and Charles have a daughter (little Lucie) and a son who dies. Carton visits them about six times each year, and little Lucie loves him. Carton still works for Stryver who has married a rich widow who has three sons. In Paris, Defarge leads the storming of the Bastille where visits Dr. Manette's old cell. Madame Defarge demonstrates her vengeance by cutting off the Governor's head.
22. **The Sea Still Rises:** In Paris, a mob led by the Defarges and The Vengeance kill the nobleman Foulon and his son because of their mistreatment of the common people.
23. **Fire Rises:** France lies in ruin with starvation and disease the norm amongst the common people. The revolution is underway with red caps becoming the uniform of the revolutionaries. A revolutionary burns the late Marquis's villa to the ground.
24. **Drawn to the Loadstone Rock:** Three years later (1792), Lorry is sent to Paris by Tellson's to save and bring back important documents from their bank there. Charles receives a desperate letter from Gabelle, the manager of his uncle's estate. If Charles does not go to Paris to testify that Gabelle acted on his order, then Gabelle will be executed. Charles goes to Paris to help Gabelle without telling Lucie or the Doctor.

BOOK THE THIRD: The Track of the Storm

1. **In Secret:** On the day Charles leaves for Paris, a law is passed declaring death to any emigrant who returns to France. Because of this new law, Charles is sentenced to the prison of La Force in Paris.
2. **The Grindstone:** Lucie and her father follow Charles to Paris and meet Mr. Lorry at Tellson's. While staying with Lorry, the Doctor notices the patriots using a giant grindstone to sharpen weapons to kill the prisoners. Because of his stay in the Bastille, the Doctor is revered by the patriots and is permitted to see Charles in prison.
3. **The Shadow:** Defarge brings Lucie a note from Charles and then brings Madame Defarge and The Vengeance to see Lucie, Pross, and little Lucie so that they will know them and thus

be able to protect them. Madame Defarge's real reason for coming is to see little Lucie, because the child is sentenced to death as the Marquis's grandniece.

4. **Calm in Storm:** Dr. Manette's time in prison has served to make him strong in this crisis. It has also earned him the respect of the revolutionaries who make him the official prison doctor for three prisons. This allows him to stay in contact with Charles. Matters grow worse throughout France as revolutionary tribunals judge people and many innocent people languish in prison. In one four-day period, over 1,100 prisoners are killed by La Guillotine, and the rivers in southern France are clogged with bodies.
5. **The Wood-Sawyer:** Everyday from 2:00 until 4:00, Lucie stands in the same spot on a corner by a wood-sawyer on the chance that Charles might be able to see her from the prison. The wood-sawyer is the same road mender befriended by the Defarges.
6. **Triumph:** Following the Doctor's instructions during his trial, Charles is declared innocent and freed. This fulfills the Doctor's promise to Lucie that he would save Charles and is testimony to the respect the revolutionaries feel for him.
7. **A Knock at the Door:** That very night Charles is arrested again on charges brought by the Defarges and a mystery person.
8. **A Hand at Cards:** Miss Pross runs into her brother Solomon at a wine shop in Paris. He turns out to be the John Barsard who testified against Charles at his London trial. Sydney Carton shows up at this time and orders Barsard to meet him at Tellson's or he will turn him in to the tribunal as an English spy working for Roger Cly who also testified against Charles in London. Barsard says this is impossible because Cly is dead. Mr. Cruncher steps in and says that he knows Cly is alive because when he robbed his grave, the coffin was full of rocks. Barsard collapses at this news and confesses to everything, admitting he can go freely in and out of Charles's prison. Hearing this, Carton takes Barsard away to tell him what he wants.
9. **The Game Made:** Carton makes arrangements with Barsard to get into prison to see Darnay if he is sentenced to death. At the trial, the prosecutor says Darnay is accused by the Defarges and Dr. Manette. The Doctor's accusation comes by way of a paper he wrote while in prison that Defarge found in the Doctor's old cell.
10. **The Substance of the Shadow:** The Doctor's paper is read telling that he was imprisoned by the Marquis and his twin brother (Charles Darnay's father). At the end of the paper, Dr. Manette had denounced the Marquis and all of his line. On the strength of this information, Charles is sentenced to death.
11. **Dusk:** Charles and Lucie make their farewells. Carton carries Lucie home after she faints; he kisses her and little Lucie goodbye.
12. **Darkness:** Carton goes to the Defarge's wine shop so that they will see him and know that an Englishman is abroad who looks like Charles. At the shop, the Defarges, the Vengeance, and Jacques Three argue over the fate of Charles's family. Defarge wants the killing to end with Charles, but Madame Defarge wants all his line (little Lucie) killed because it was her family that the Marquis destroyed and then threw the Doctor into prison. After spending all day and most of the night unsuccessfully trying to free Charles, the Doctor is so despondent that he reverts again to the way he was as a prisoner. Carton gives Lorry his traveling papers along with the Doctor's, Lucie's, and little Lucie's. He tells Lorry to make preparations to get them out of the country tomorrow because Madame Defarge intends to charge them with taking part in a prison plot.
13. **Fifty-two:** Carton gets Barsard to take him to see Charles. In the cell, Carton knocks Charles out with some chemicals and then exchanges clothes with him. He then has Barsard carry Charles to Lorry with the instructions to not wake him, but to get them all out of Paris as quickly as possible.
14. **The Knitting Done:** Madame Defarge plots with Jacques Three and The Vengeance to have Lucie, little Lucie, and the Doctor condemned using the wood-sawyer as a witness. She then goes to the Manette's quarters where she finds Miss Pross preparing to leave to meet Jerry Cruncher so that they can leave for England. Madame Defarge tries to search the apartment to make sure the Manettes are still there, but Miss Pross stops her. They struggle and Madame Defarge is accidentally shot and killed. Miss Pross locks the body in the apartment and goes to meet Jerry.

- 15. The Footsteps Die Out for Ever:** Carton foretells that Charles and Lucie will live happily ever after together with little Lucie and their son Sydney who will go on to make his name respected. Then Carton meets La Guillotine and dies in Charles's place.

TEACHING A TALE OF TWO CITIES

Before Reading the Novel

Before the actual reading of the novel, it is helpful to make the students aware of the many themes explored in this work as well as the historical events that inspired its writing. The following activities are designed to get students actively involved in their reading by encouraging them to think about key issues. These activities can be done by the class as a whole, by small groups, or as individual assignments.

Theme

1. The positive or negative nature of revenge is one of the novel's important themes. The following questions will help students to explore this theme:
 - Is revenge ever justified? Is so, under what circumstances?
 - How far would you go to obtain revenge on someone or some group who destroyed your family?
 - Can you achieve justice through revenge?
 - What is justice?
 - How does our society treat those who achieve revenge?
2. How an individual's character is developed or destroyed in a crisis is another major theme. The following activity will help students explore this theme: Have students generate a list of people in real life or literature who developed character in crisis. Have them choose one of these individuals and write a short essay on how this person responded to the crisis.
3. Duty versus desire is an important theme that can be explored by having students answer the following questions:
 - When, if ever, should desire be placed before duty?
 - When have you ever placed desire before duty? What was the result of this decision?
 - Who do we expect to place duty before desire? Why? What happens if they do not do so?
4. Corruption in the ruling class is also a major theme in the novel. The following activity will help students explore this theme:
 - Have students bring in articles from current newspapers or magazines dealing with corruption in individuals and institutions that are responsible for administering government policy. Have students discuss the effect this has on common people and what the long term consequences would be if this practice became the norm.
5. Honor versus dishonor is another theme. The following activity helps focus attention on this issue: Have students generate a list of qualities that they believe characterize honorable behavior. Then have students bring in articles from current magazines that describe honorable people or behavior. After sharing and discussing these articles, have students answer the following questions:
 - How are characteristics of honor established, and who establishes them?
 - How does honorable behavior differ from group to group?
 - Who, if anyone, do we expect to be honorable? Employers? Family? Politicians? Lawyers? Business-people?

The French Revolution

As a short research project, have students study the French Revolution. Have different groups look at the following:

- The conditions that led to the Revolution.
- The types of government France had before and after the Revolution.

- Why the French still celebrate Bastille Day.
- Using the “Afterword” in the Signet Classic edition of *A Tale of Two Cities* as a starting point, have students find out what effect the French Revolution had on America, England, and the world.
- Have students research what other important world events were happening at the same time as the French Revolution.

England During Dickens’s Time

Using the “Afterword” in the Signet Classic edition of *A Tale of Two Cities* as a starting point, have students research what was happening in England during Dickens’s life and what influence the events of his own time had on his decision to write this particular novel.

While Reading the Novel

The following activities can be done by the class as a whole, by small groups, or as individual assignments.

1. Using the information gathered from their pre-reading research, have students chart events in the novel alongside events that happened during the time of the French Revolution For example:

Beginning of the American Revolution 1775

Mr. Lorry informs Lucie Manette that her father is alive, and they travel to Paris to see him and bring him back to London.

2. Look for evidence that indicates what Dickens’s attitude is toward the past. For example: “It was famous, too, for the pillory, a wise old institution, that inflicted a punishment of which on one could foresee the extent.”
3. Have students look for Dickens’s use of doubling. For example: Charles Darnay and Sydney Carton, Darnay is unjustly tried as an enemy of the state in both England and France, Lucie Manette is the child of an English mother and a French father, etc.
4. Have students look for instances where Dickens uses the repetition of a single word to achieve an impact on the reader. For example: His repetition of the word “blood,” “Hunger,” and “if.” Read these passages aloud.
5. Look at Dickens’s use of dialogue; does the characters’ speech match their social status? For example: The coachman for the Dover mail, “My blood!” ejaculated the vexed coachman, “and not atop of Shooter’s yet! Tsh! Yah? Get on with you!” versus Mr. Lorry, “I know this messenger, guard,” said Mr. Lorry...”He may come close; there’s nothing wrong.”
6. Find examples where Dickens attaches some sort of epithet to each of his characters in the form of a physical trait, gesture, often repeated signature phrase, etc. For example: “honest” Jerry Cruncher, Mr. Lorry’s “It’s a matter of business,” etc.
7. One characteristic of Dickens’s writing is that he often focuses on beauty in the midst of ugliness or virtue among a variety of vices. Have students find examples of these in *A Tale of Two Cities*. For example: “He put his hand to his neck, and took off blackened string with a scrap of folded rag attached to it. He opened this, carefully, on his knee, and it contained a very little quantity of hair: not more than one or two long golden hairs, which he had, in some old day, wound off upon his finger” and “They said of him, about the city that night, that it was the peacefulest man’s face ever beheld there. Many added that he looked sublime and prophetic.”

Detailed Study Questions

The following questions can be used in a variety of ways. Assigned to each student or to small groups, the questions can be used as class discussion starters, formal study guides, a

review for a test, writing assignments, etc. They are especially useful for helping average and low-ability level students follow the plot.

Book 1, Chapter 1

1. What was the attitude of British and French nobility concerning the future of their rule?
2. In France, what was a common punishment for not kneeling to honor monks?
3. What was the crime situation in England at this time?

Book 1, Chapter 2

4. How did passengers on the Dover mail interact with each other? Why did they act this way?
5. What was the guard's initial reaction to the arrival of Jerry Cruncher?
6. Who is Cruncher's message for, and what is this gentleman's occupation?
7. What was Cruncher's message, and what was the reply? What do you think these messages mean?

Book 1, Chapter 3

8. What is Cruncher's reaction to the message he is to take to Tellson's?
9. What question does Mr. Lorry ask the spectre? What is the spectre's answer? What do you think this means?

Book 1, Chapter 4

10. Describe Mr. Jarvis Lorry's dress and physical appearance.
11. Who is Mr. Lorry waiting for in Dover?
12. Have Mr. Lorry and the young Lady met before? If so, when and under what circumstances?
13. What news does Mr. Lorry have for the young Lady?
14. What is her reaction to the news?

Book 1, Chapter 5

15. What are the people's reactions to the broken wine cask?
16. The spilled wine is a symbol of what?
17. What is the power that has ground the people down? What does this tell us about conditions in France?
18. Describe Defarge and his wife.
19. Why do the men in the wine shop refer to each other as Jacques? (Look up the word "jacquerie" for a hint.)
20. Why have Mr. Lorry and Miss Manette come to Defarge's wine shop? Why was Defarge chosen for this duty?
21. Why do you think Defarge shows Dr. Manette to the Jacques?

Book 1, Chapter 6

22. What is Dr. Manette doing when they enter the room?
23. Describe the Doctor's physical appearance. What does this say about his prison experience?
24. What physical characteristic tells us that Lucie is indeed the Doctor's daughter?
25. When the doctor compares the strands of golden hair in his "locket" to Lucie's hair, what is his first conclusion? Does he finally figure out the truth?

Book 2, Chapter 1

26. Describe Tellson's bank. What is the bank's attitude toward change?
27. How does Tellson's treat the young men in its employ?
28. What behavior of Mrs. Cruncher makes Mr. Cruncher angry? Why does this anger him?
29. What physical characteristic of his father's does young Jerry wonder about? Can you make a guess about it?

Book 2, Chapter 2

30. What does Mr. Cruncher think is "Barbarous"? Do you agree or disagree with him? Why?
31. What is the "old Bailey" and what is it famous for?

32. Who is being tried, and what is the charge against him?
33. Who is present in the courtroom to act as witnesses for the prosecution?

Book 2, Chapter 3

34. Where did Mr. Lorry, Miss Manette, and Dr. Manette first meet Charles Darnay? What was Lucie's opinion of him?
35. What did the wigged gentleman who was looking at the ceiling point out to the counsel, Mr. Stryver, on the piece of paper that he threw to him?
36. What does Mr. Stryver say about Mr. Basard and Mr. Cly?
37. What happens in the courtroom to prove that Mr. Carton is much more observant than his manner lets on?
38. What personal service does Carton do for Charles Darnay? What do you think this hints at for the future?
39. What is the verdict?

Book 2, Chapter 4

40. What do you think Carton's and Darnay's toast foreshadows?
41. What is Sydney Carton's opinion of himself?

Book 2, Chapter 5

42. What is Carton's job?
43. Describe his working routine. Include when, where, and how.
44. After reading this chapter, describe Sydney Carton's life and tell how you think he feels about it.

Book 2, Chapter 6

45. Where does Mr. Lorry go most Sundays? Why?
46. What kind of housekeeper is Lucie?
47. Describe Miss Pross as she appears on the surface and how she really is once you get to know her?
48. How does Miss Pross describe the Doctor's mental condition? What does it take to soothe him?
49. Who are the "hundreds of people" that visit the Manette's on Sundays?

Book 2, Chapter 7

50. What kinds of people associate themselves with the Monseigneur? What does this say about what it takes to get ahead in France at this time?
51. Describe the "accident" that befalls the Monsieur the Marquis in the streets of Paris.
52. What is the Marquis's attitude toward this "accident"?

Book 2, Chapter 8

53. What are the conditions in the Marquis's home village?
54. What unusual sight did the roadmender see? What prediction can you make from this?
55. Who is the Marquis expecting? Can you guess the identity of this person?

Book 2, Chapter 9

56. Of what does Darnay accuse his uncle?
57. What is the Marquis's philosophy of keeping the common people under control?
58. What is Darnay's opinion of his family's behavior and what does he plan to do about it?
59. What happens to the Marquis, and what does the note tell us?

Book 2, Chapter 10

60. A year after his uncle's death, describe Charles Darnay's professional and personal condition.
61. In proclaiming his love for Lucie, how does Charles show consideration for Dr. Manette?
62. What are the two promises that the Doctor makes Charles?

63. What is the effect on the Doctor of making these promises? Why do you think they had this effect on him?

Book 2, Chapter 11

64. What future plan does Stryver confess to Carton?

65. What does Stryver advise Carton to do?

Book 2, Chapter 12

66. Why does Stryver stop in to tell Mr. Lorry of his plans?

67. What is Mr. Lorry's reaction to Stryver's news?

68. What does Mr. Lorry offer to do for Stryver?

69. What is Stryver's attitude when Lorry comes to the house with information, and why does he act this way?

Book 2, Chapter 13

70. In his talk with Lucie, what is Carton's opinion of himself?

71. What does Carton say he would do if Lucie should love him?

72. What memory does Carton want to take with him?

73. What promise does Carton make Lucie? Where do you think this promise will lead him?

Book 2, Chapter 14

74. Whose funeral procession does the crowd attack? Why do they attack it?

75. What is Jerry Cruncher's reaction to the mob violence?

76. Describe Mr. Cruncher's "fishing tackle." What kind of "fish" do you think he is going for with this type of "tackle"?

77. What name does young Jerry give to his father's "trade," and what is Mr. Cruncher's response when young Jerry says he wants to be in that trade when he grows up? Do you see an irony in "resurrection man" and "recalled to life"?

Book 2, Chapter 15

78. What was the fate of the Marquis's killer, and who reported that fate to Defarge?

79. What is the sentence that Defarge and his compatriots give after hearing the fate of the Marquis's killer? What are the future implications of this sentence?

80. How are these sentences recorded so that they will be kept secret until the appropriate time?

81. Why does Defarge compliment his guest for cheering the king and queen?

Book 2, Chapter 16

82. What information does Defarge get from Jacques on the police force? Where have you heard of this man before?

83. Why is Defarge depressed, and how does Madame Defarge comfort him?

84. What is the significance of Madame Defarge pinning a rose in her hair?

85. What does the spy learn from the Defarges, and what do they learn from him? Why does the spy's information disturb the Defarges?

Book 2, Chapter 17

86. What are the Doctor's feelings about Lucie's impending marriage?

Book 2, Chapter 18

87. What does Charles Darnay tell the Doctor on the morning of his marriage to Lucie?

88. What is the Doctor's response to the combination of this information and the giving of his daughter in marriage?

89. What two things does Mr. Lorry do in reaction to the Doctor's condition?

Book 2, Chapter 19

90. How does Mr. Lorry go about approaching the Doctor about his condition for the nine days without upsetting him?

91. What is the Doctor's opinion about the future of Mr. Lorry's "hypothetical" man?
92. What does the Doctor say is the one thing that could bring on another relapse? What does he mean by this?
93. What recommendation does Mr. Lorry make to the Doctor, and how does he talk him into following it?

Book 2, Chapter 20

94. What request does Carton make of Charles?
95. What does Lucie request of Charles?

Book 2, Chapter 21

96. What is the significance of the "echoing footsteps"?
97. What sad thing befell Charles and Lucie during this time period?
98. What has happened to Carton and Stryver over the years?
99. What happened in Paris on July 14, 1789?
100. Where did Defarge demand to be taken first? Why?
101. How does Madame Defarge show her merciless strength?

Book 2, Chapter 22

102. Who is Madame Defarge's lieutenant in leading the women, and what does this "nickname" imply about her?
103. Who was Old Foulon and what was his fate?
104. What has begun?

Book 2, Chapter 23

105. What is the symbol of the revolutionaries?
106. What happens at the Marquis's villa? What is this an example of?

Book 2, Chapter 24

107. In the year 1792, where was the headquarters for the "Monseigneur" in Paris?
108. Why is Mr. Lorry going to France? What is his mission?
109. What is Gabelle's urgent plea?
110. What is Charles's decision? Why does he decide on this course of action? What does this say about his character?

Book 3, Chapter 1

111. What type of reception does Charles receive in France?
112. What is the "emigrant decree," and how does it affect Charles?
113. What is Defarge's reaction to Charles's plea for help, and why does he act this way?
114. Who is this La Guillotine who has become the new darling of France?
115. What about Charles's detention makes it worse than general imprisonment? Why do you think this is worse?

Book 3, Chapter 2

116. What horrible thing is located in the courtyard of Tellson's in Paris? What makes it horrible?
117. Who are Mr. Lorry's surprise guests, and what news do they bring him?
118. Why does the Doctor say he leads a "charmed life" in Paris?
119. What is the mob's reaction to the Doctor's plea for help?

Book 3, Chapter 3

120. Who is the messenger that comes to Mr. Lorry, and what is his message?
121. Why does Madame Defarge say she visits Lucie, and what is her true reason?
122. What does Lucie ask of Madame Defarge, and how does she respond?

Book 3, Chapter 4

123. What conditions does the Doctor find in the prison?
124. What has the eighteen years he spent in prison done for the Doctor?
125. What position did the Doctor achieve because of his status, and how does this position help Charles?
126. What is the new legal order in France at this time?

Book 3, Chapter 5

127. How does Lucie respond to living fifteen months in constant fear that every day might be Charles's last? What does this say about her?
128. What small scrap of good news does the Doctor bring Lucie?
129. Who is the wood-sawyer, and what is his attitude toward those in prison?
130. What is the Carmagnole, and why does Lucie think it is terrible?

Book 3, Chapter 6

131. Who orchestrates Charles's acquittal, and is his defense built on fact or emotion?
132. What is the mob's reaction to Charles's acquittal, and why is this surprising?

Book 3, Chapter 7

133. Why do Charles and his family stay in France, and what is their style of living there?
134. What happens to Charles during his first night of freedom?

Book 3, Chapter 8

135. Who do Miss Pross and Jerry Cruncher run into while shopping?
136. Who does Carton know this man as?
137. How does Carton get this man to help him?
138. What startling information does Mr. Cruncher have concerning the death of Roger Cly, and how does this information help Carton?

Book 3, Chapter 9

139. What is Barsard going to do for Carton? What do you think Carton's plan is?
140. What memory gives Carton comfort as he wanders the Paris streets, and what does it tell us of why he turned out the way he did?
141. Who are Charles's accusers? Why is one of them particularly surprising?
142. What is the form of Dr. Manette's accusation?

Book 3, Chapter 10

143. Who are the twin brothers who need the Doctor's services?
144. Who is the sick woman, and what is wrong with her?
145. What does this say about the brothers' character?
146. What was the boy's last act, and how has it turned out?
147. What was the Marquis St. Evermonde's wife's request of the Doctor? Whose mother was she?
148. Who had the Doctor put in prison and why?
149. What was the last thing the Doctor wrote in his account, and what effect does its reading have?

Book 3, Chapter 11

150. Why didn't Lucie collapse when Charles was condemned, and what does this say about her?
151. Why did Carton encourage Dr. Manette to continue his efforts to free Charles? What does this say about Carton?

Book 3, Chapter 12

152. Why did Carton go to Defarge's wine shop?
153. What are Madame Defarge and Defarge arguing over?

154. Why is Madame Defarge so merciless towards Charles and his family?
155. What is the Doctor's condition when he returns, and what is its cause?
156. What papers does Carton give Mr. Lorry to hold?
157. Why does Carton instruct Lorry to be prepared to leave the next day? What do you think is Carton's plan?

Book 3, Chapter 13

158. What does Charles write in his "last" letter?
159. How does Carton get Charles to go along with his plan?
160. How does Carton get Charles out of prison?
161. How is Carton going to keep the promise he made to Lucie years before?

Book 3, Chapter 14

162. What is Madame Defarge's plan and what does Defarge think of it?
163. What plan are Miss Pross and Mr. Cruncher following and why?
164. What happens between Miss Pross and Madame Defarge?

Book 3, Chapter 15

165. At the execution, what do they say about Carton?
166. What does Carton foretell for Charles and Lucie, and how does their future bring honor to his name?

After Reading the Novel

Questions for Deeper Understanding

The following can be used as reading journal topics, essay topics, the basis for oral reports, class discussion starters, and so forth.

Plot

1. Reread the first paragraph of the novel. How could it be used to describe today's world?
2. What were the conditions in France that lead to the revolution?
3. This is a novel of scenes, not characters. Find important scenes in which Dickens used visual descriptions as symbols for some theme or idea and explain what the descriptions are symbols of. (i.e. the spilled wine as a symbol of blood in Chapter 5, "The Wineshop")
4. Do a plot outline being sure to mark the climax. Explain how you made your choice.
5. Explore Dickens' image of "the road" as it runs throughout the novel. (i.e., The last sentence in Chapter 1)

Characterization

6. In Book 1, Chapter 4, why is Mr. Lorry reluctant to be seen talking to Charles Darnay? Give some examples how this attitude does or does not change over time.
7. Dickens describes Tellson's much in the same way he describes his characters. If Tellson's was a person, describe his/her appearance, social philosophy, and political beliefs.
8. Why does Dickens describe Stryver as "the lion" and Carton as "the jackal."
9. Look at Charles Darnay and his uncle the Marquis; how are they different, and why did Charles develop so differently from his uncle and his father?
10. Support or argue against the following statement: Madame Defarge is Dickens' symbol for the French Revolution.
11. Reread the scene between Madame Defarge and Miss Pross in Book 3, Chapter 14. Compare and contrast the two, focusing on their actions and motivations.
12. Discuss the following relationships: Mr. Lorry and the Manettes, Sydney Carton and Lucie, Charles and Dr. Manette, Defarge and Dr. Manette, Charles and the Marquis.
13. Decide if the following characters are well rounded, flat, static, or dynamic: Mr. Lorry, Lucie Manette, Dr. Manette, Charles Darnay, Sydney Carton, Stryver, Miss Pross, Jerry Cruncher, Defarge, and Madame Defarge. Be prepared to defend your answer.

Theme

14. Explore Dr. Manette and Sydney Carton as symbols of the idea of social regeneration through suffering and sacrifices.
15. Madame Defarge obviously believes that children should be punished for the sins of their fathers. Support or defend her position.
16. Compare and contrast how Charles Darnay and Defarge both put duty before desire.
17. Discuss how Gaspard's actions and fate symbolize the cruelty of the French aristocracy and the effect this cruelty had on the French people.
18. Look up the term noblesse oblige." What language does it come from, and what does it mean? In light of the events in the novel, how is this ironic?
19. Write your definition of honor and dishonor. In light of your definition, would you describe the following characters as either honorable or dishonorable? Defarge, Stryver, Sydney Carton, Mr. Lorry, and Jerry Cruncher.
20. Trace the author's symbolic use of light and shadow throughout the novel (Lucie-lucid-light).
21. Contrast the stoicism of the Defarges with the self-pity of Carton.

Additional Follow-up Activities

In addition to dealing with these questions, students can engage in some of the following activities.

1. Have the students reenact Charles Darnay's trial in England and his last trial in France. Use the students' performances as a basis for a discussion of the French and English legal systems of the time.
2. Have the students cast the novel as a movie using current actors and actresses. Have the students explain their choices in light of Dickens' characterizations of each one.
3. Have students write eulogies for Sydney Carton, the seamstress, and Madame Defarge.
4. Have students write a poem or rap to summarize a specific scene in the novel or the novel as a whole.
5. Have students build models of some of the more notable objects and buildings in the novel, such as "the grindstone," "La Guillotine," the Bastille, and Tellson's
6. Have students conduct a trial of Gaspard based on current laws in this country.
7. Have students draw a picture of the final garment that Madame Defarge's knitting would have produced.
8. After reading Edgar Johnson's "Afterword," write an essay discussing Dickens' reasons for writing about the French Revolution.

BIBLIOGRAPHIES

In addition to the selected bibliographies related to Dickens' times, life, and other works found in the Signet Classic edition of *A Tale of Two Cities*, we recommend the following books for additional information about the French Revolution:

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- Arasse, Daniel. *The Guillotine and the Terror*. Translated by Christopher Miller. NY: Viking, 1990; Penguin, 1991 in paperback.
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- Carlyle, Thomas. *The French Revolution*. Edited by K.J. Fielding and David Sorenson. NY: Oxford University Press, 1989.
- Dowd, David L. *The French Revolution*. NY: American Heritage, 1965.
- Rude, George. *The Crowd in the French Revolution*. NY: Oxford University Press, 1967.

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