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Individual Learning Packet

Teaching Unit

A Tale of Two Cities

by Charles Dickens

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A Tale of Two Cities

Objectives

By the end of this unit, the student will be able to:

1. describe parallelism in Dickens' style and identify examples of it in the novel.

2. discuss the extent to which this novel meets the four criteria for an historical novel.

3. relate incidents in the story which illustrate the author's views on the following:
   - capital punishment
   - the horrors of prisons
   - the dangers of mob rule
   - the ideal woman
   - horrible ways to die.

4. cite events from the novel to support that Dickens believes in fate and show that the events in the protagonist's life (Darnay's) are inevitable consequences resulting from the tide of history.

5. explain how the author uses foreshadowing to heighten suspense and create interest in the following ways:
   - using imagery to set the mood for the action to come
   - suggestively titling each chapter
   - including cliff-hangers to end many of the chapters.

6. recognize the difference between third-person and first-person narration and indicate when the point of view changes.

7. identify the author's use of personification and discuss how he employs it to touch the emotions of the reader.

8. trace the development of the major theme in this story, rebirth through sacrifice, as it applies to:
   - Dr. Manette
   - Sydney Carton
   - Charles Darnay.

9. discuss how the author exaggerates the descriptions and actions of the following characters so they become caricatures of a particular type of person:
    - Miss Pross – the loyal British servant
    - Lucie Manette – the ideal woman
    - Jarvis Lorry – the consummate business man
    - The Defarges – the zealous revolutionary
    - Stryver – the unscrupulously ambitious person.

10. find examples of epithets in the novel and discuss how they help readers keep the many characters straight in their minds. Some epithets include:
    - Madame Defarge - knitting
    - Mr. Lorry - man of business
    - Lucie - golden hair
    - Dr. Manette - white hair
    - Miss Pross - red hair
    - Jerry Cruncher - spiked hair.

11. discuss the blurred lines between what is real and what is imagined in Dr. Manette's life.

12. discuss how Dickens uses similar pairs such as the following to heighten drama, add believability, and move the plot along:
    - Darnay and Carton
    - France and England
    - St. Evrémonde brothers.

13. support or refute the following thesis by citing examples from the story: "The reader sees that, as a force of nature, love is more powerful than hate."

14. explain how the following symbols are used in the story:
    - water as a symbol for life
    - the color red as a symbol for blood
    - Lucie's hair as a symbol of home.

15. discuss the societal abuses that bring on the revolution and comment on the revolution's human face.

16. discuss how mob rule can lead to violent excesses.

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Background Information

The French Revolution

The French Revolution began July 14, 1789, when a mob stormed the Bastille, an infamous prison that housed political prisoners sent there by members of the aristocracy. The French people celebrate Bastille Day on July 14 much as Americans celebrate the Fourth of July.

After the government's overthrow, a revolutionary committee of middle-class citizens governed Paris. During this period, the peasants burned the castles of the lords in order to destroy the papers which contained the records of their manorial rights.

In 1792, royalty was abolished, and a republic was proclaimed. In 1793, the Reign of Terror began, and thousands of aristocrats were killed by the guillotine.

The reasons for the revolution were complex but included the following:

- oppression of the masses by the aristocracy
- working conditions that were no better than slavery
- unfair taxes that put additional burden on those struggling to survive
- hunger and poverty of the masses in stark contrast to the indulgent life of the aristocracy.

Charles Dickens – (1812 – 1870)

Dickens, who was very popular in his own time, often read his stories to large, appreciative audiences. As with his other works, *A Tale of Two Cities* was written in weekly installments and was eagerly awaited by his audience.

Dickens was a bright child but did suffer some significant reverses while growing up. His father was sent to debtors' prison. It was during these difficult years that Dickens developed his fascination with prisons and his interest in the needs of the poor.

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Terms and Definitions

Caricature - an exaggerated flat or static character. Certain features or mannerisms are exaggerated for satirical effect. **Example**: Napoleon in *Animal Farm*.

Epithet - an adjective or phrase that emphasizes a character's personality by referring to the attributes possessed by another person or thing. These epithets help the reader understand important characteristics of the people. **Example**: "Achilles the invincible." The "*Homeric epithet*" is a phrase, usually a compound adjective, which serves the same purpose and is frequently applied to objects as well as humans. **Examples**: "rosy-fingered Dawn"; "the wine-dark sea."

Foreshadowing - the use of hints or clues in a story to suggest what action is to come. Foreshadowing is frequently used to create interest and build suspense. **Example**: Two small and seemingly inconsequential car accidents predict and hint at the upcoming, important wreck in *The Great Gatsby.*

Historical Novel - a novel that attempts to depict accurately the specific customs, manners, and society of a particular historical time. ***Examples***: *Johnny Tremain, Ivanhoe.*

Hyperbole- exaggeration for emphasis; overstatement. **Example**: I've told you a million times to…

Irony - a perception of inconsistency, sometimes humorous, in which the significance and understanding of a statement or event is changed by its context. **Example**: The firehouse burned down.

- *Dramatic Irony* - the audience or reader knows more about a character's situation than the character does and knows that the character's understanding is incorrect. **Example**: In *Medea,* Creon asks, "What atrocities could she commit in one day?" The reader, however, knows Medea will destroy her family and Creon's by day's end.
- *Structural Irony* – the use of a naïve hero, whose incorrect perceptions differ from the reader's correct ones. **Example**: Huck Finn.
- *Verbal Irony* - a discrepancy between what is said and what is really meant; sarcasm. **Example**: A large man whose nickname is "Tiny."

Narrator - the one who tells the story. The narrator must not be confused with "author," the one who writes the story. If the narrator is a character in the book, the proper term is "first-person narration." **Example**: *Moby Dick* is narrated by Ishmael, a crewmember. If the narrator is not a character in the book, the correct term *is* "third-person narration." **Example**: *Sense and Sensibility*.

Paradox - a statement that is self-contradictory on its surface, yet makes a point through the *juxtaposition* of the ideas and words within the paradox. **Examples**: "Noon finally dawned for the remaining, weary soldiers"; "He that hath no money; come ye, buy and eat…"–Isaiah 55:1

Parallelism - the repetition of similarly constructed phrases, clauses, or sentences within a short section. **Examples**: "Government of the people, by the people, and for the people…"; "When I was a child, I spake as child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child…"I Corinthians 13:11

Personification - a figure of speech in which an object, abstract idea, or animal is given human characteristics. **Examples**: The wall did its best to keep out the invaders.
"Because I could not stop for Death,
He kindly stopped for me."
–Emily Dickinson

Symbol - an object, person, or place that has a meaning in itself and that also stands for something larger than itself, usually an idea or concept; some concrete thing which represents an abstraction. **Example**: The sea could be symbolic for "the unknown." Since the sea is something that is physical and can be seen by the reader, and also has elements that cannot be understood, it can be used symbolically to stand for the abstraction of "mystery," "obscurity," or "the unknown."

Theme - the central or dominant idea behind the story; the most important aspect that emerges from how the book treats its subject. Sometimes theme is easy to see, but, at other times, it may be more difficult. Theme is usually expressed indirectly, as an element the reader must figure out. It is a universal statement about humanity, rather than a simple statement dealing with plot or characters in the story. Themes are generally hinted at through different methods: a phrase or quotation that introduces the novel, a recurring element in the book, or an observation made that is reinforced through plot, dialogue, or characters. It must be emphasized that not all works of literature have themes in them. **Example**: In a story about a man who is diagnosed with cancer and, through medicine and will-power, returns to his former occupation, the theme might be: "Real courage is demonstrated through internal bravery and perseverance." In a poem about a flower that grows, blooms, and dies, the theme might be: "Youth fades, and death comes to all."

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References

Trumbils of the Revolution - These carts were used to transport the prisoners to the guillotine.

Guillotine - The guillotine is a supposedly painless form of execution named after Dr. Guillotin, who first proposed it.

Letres de cachet - These are referred to in the novel as "blank forms of consignment," warrants for imprisonment used by nobles to sentence their enemies to prison.

The Reign of Terror - Beginning in 1793, this is the period when Marie Antoinette, thousands of other aristocrats, and suspected anti-revolutionaries are executed.

The Law of the Suspected - This law permitted the revolutionaries a wide range of excuses for ordering executions.

Carmagnole - This is a dance done to a revolutionary song and used to work the mob into a frenzy before the executions.

Continental Congress - In America, in 1775, the Continental Congress sent a list of grievances to the British government.

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Test

1. "…it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us…"
   This quotation from the novel is an example of
   A. parallelism - because phrases one and two and phrases three and four are parallel in construction.
   B. imagery - because metaphors are used to make a point.
   C. paradox - because phrases three and four appear to be a contradiction but are both true.
   D. Both A and B
   E. A, B, and C

2. Charles Darnay is drawn back to France at a time when the aristocracy are being sentenced to the guillotine because
   A. he needs to dispose of his uncle's property properly.
   B. he does not want Mr. Lorry to travel there alone because he feels a strong gratitude toward him for helping Dr. Manette and Lucie.
   C. he receives a letter from a trusted servant, Gabelle, pleading with him for help.
   D. he does not think anyone in France will recognize him as the nephew of the Marquis.

3. Which of the following events does the story present as "inevitable consequences" or fate?
   A. Charles Darnay returns to France and is sentenced to die.
   B. Carton does Mr. Stryver's work, just as he did the work of his classmates many years earlier.
   C. The château of the Marquis, a symbol of oppression, is burned to the ground by the revolutionaries.
   D. Both A and B
   E. A, B, and C

4. Dickens can be called a master of foreshadowing because of the way he
   A. uses chapter titles to suggest the action to come.
   B. includes cliff-hangers at the end of many of the chapters.
   C. uses personification to touch the emotions of the reader.
   D. Both A and B
   E. A, B, and C

5. One of the main themes of this novel is the idea that resurrection is possible through sacrifice or great love. Which of the following relationships best illustrates this theme?
   A. Dr. Manette and Charles Darnay—Dr. Manette sacrifices his life to give Darnay permission to marry Lucie.
   B. Sydney Carton and Lucie—Sydney Carton sacrifices his miserable life so that Lucie can have the "life she loves."
   C. Sydney Carton and Charles Darnay—Carton helps Darnay escape from England, where he is being tried as a spy.
   D. The seamstress and the French people—The seamstress confesses to making plots against the revolutionaries and willingly goes to the guillotine to help further the cause of the Republic.

6. Miss Pross serves to illustrate the theme that as a force of nature, love is stronger than hate when she
   A. goes with Lucie to France.
   B. complains to Mr. Lorry about the "hundreds" of suitors wanting to marry Lucie.
   C. wins her fight with Madame Defarge.
   D. keeps Dr. Manette's relapse a secret from Lucie.

7. Which of the following phrases is repeatedly used by Dickens to describe Jerry Cruncher, the grave robber?
   A. spiked hair, rusty fingers
   B. white hair
   C. golden hair
   D. a man of business

8. "He took her hair into his hand again, and looked closely at it. 'It is the same. How can it be! When was it! How was it!'"
   This quotation best illustrates which thesis?
   A. As a force of nature, love is stronger than hate.
   B. Absolute power corrupts even good people.
   C. The lines between reality and unreality are often blurred.
   D. The end justifies the means.

9. Monsieur Defarge is sympathetic to Dr. Manette's family because
   A. as a youth he served in Dr. Manette's household.
   B. he knows his wife's hatred for Dr. Manette's family is without grounds.
   C. he secretly loves the beautiful Lucie.
   D. Both A and B
   E. A, B, and C

10. There is evidence in the novel that Dickens believed in
    A. reincarnation.
    B. fate.
    C. ghosts.
    D. Both A and B
    E. A, B, and C

11. "Hunger stared down from the smokeless chimneys, and started up from the filthy street that had no offal, among its refuse, of anything to eat."
    The above quotation best illustrates the author's use of
    A. personification.
    B. irony.
    C. foreshadowing.
    D. epithet.

12. "There was a steaming mist in all the hollows, and it had roamed in its forlornness up the hill, like an evil spirit, seeking rest and finding none."
    In the above quotation, Dickens uses the imagery to
    A. create a mood.
    B. suggest the presence or coming of some trouble.
    C. express an appreciation of the many changes of nature.
    D. Both A and B
    E. A, B, and C

13. A popular theme in literature involves comparisons between reality and illusion. Which of the following examples are seen in this story?
    A. the real versus what is only imagined (like a mirage).
    B. what appears to be real versus the actual reality beneath the surface (like the facade in a movie set).
    C. Both A and B

14. Dickens uses several pairs of similar characters in this story to
    A. help the reader understand why Lucie likes Carton, who in appearance is similar to her husband.
    B. add believability to the idea that Carton looks enough like Darnay that he can take Darnay's place in prison.
    C. make the reader aware of a buried family connection between Carton and Darnay.
    D. Both A and B
    E. A, B, and C

15. The phrase "recalled to life" refers in the story specifically to
    A. Jerry Cruncher's digging up dead bodies.
    B. the message Mr. Lorry gives Jerry at the beginning of the story.
    C. Sydney Carton's taking Charles Darnay's place in prison.
    D. Both A and C
    E. A, B, and C

16. In this novel, Dickens
    A. affirms the democratic principles of the revolution.
    B. understands and sympathizes with the reason for the mobs' actions.
    C. fears the great violence of the mobs.
    D. Both A and B
    E. A, B, and C

17. What changes take place in Carton's character just before he dies?
    A. He stops drinking and gains confidence.
    B. He is able to tell Lucie that he loves her.
    C. His mental powers increase to the point that he is more intelligent than Mr. Stryver.
    D. Both A and B
    E. A, B, and C

18. Which of the following symbols is used in the novel to represent life?
    A. the red wine spilled in front of the wine shop.
    B. the water fountain in the center of the village.
    C. the strands of golden hair Dr. Manette keeps with him.
    D. Madame Defarge's knitting.

19. "We are through the village, up the hill, and down the hill, and on the low watery grounds."
    The above quotation is an example of
    A. first-person narration.
    B. third-person narration.
    C. personification.
    D. foreshadowing.

20. Which pair is **not** a study in contrasts?
    A. Sydney Carton and Charles Darnay
    B. Jerry Cruncher and his son
    C. Paris and London
    D. Sydney Carton and Mr. Stryver
    E. Madame Defarge and Miss Pross

Essays

(Answer any two.)

1. The last sentence in the book is "It is a far, far better thing that I do, than I have ever done; it is a far, far better rest that I go to than I have ever known." Cite incidents in the story indicating how this last sentence supports the following theme: Resurrection is possible through great love and sacrifice.

2. Cite events from the novel to support or refute the following statement: The fate of the French nobility is an inevitable consequence resulting from the nobles' own misdeeds.

3. Many critics think the character of Madame Defarge is far more interesting than the character of Lucie Manette. Along the same lines, do you think the action taking place in Paris is more interesting than the action taking place in London? Use events from the story to support your answer.

4. To be considered an historical novel, a story must:
   - take place at a time before the author's writing of it
   - accurately present the attitudes of the times
   - have a protagonist with divided loyalties
   - present a resolution directly related to the social conflicts of the time.

   Cite incidents from the story to support or refute that *A Tale of Two Cities* is an example of an historical novel.

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Questions for Discussion and Essay

1. Considering that the book was written in installments for weekly publication, discuss how Dickens used chapter titles, foreshadowing, and cliff-hanger endings to maintain interest in his story each week.

2. Write a brief character sketch of Madame Defarge. Do you think she is justified in wanting Lucie and her family executed?

3. Why does Monsieur Defarge sympathize with Dr. Manette and his family?

4. Cite incidents in the novel to support this theme: As a force of nature, love is stronger than hate.

5. How does the phrase "recalled to life" impact the life of Jerry Cruncher?

6. Support or refute the following statement: Mr. Lorry is a consummate businessman and a loyal friend.

7. Contrast the characters Sydney Carton and Mr. Stryver. Which do you find more interesting?

8. In what ways may Darnay be said to be a man with a strong social conscience?

9. Do you think Lucie Manette had any power to help Carton mend his wasteful ways?

10. What epithet is used to describe each of the following characters:
Madame Defarge, Mr. Lorry, Lucie, Dr. Manette, Miss Pross, and Jerry Cruncher?

11. When and why does Dr. Manette retreat from his life and begin making shoes again?

12. Define symbolism and explain the meanings of the following symbols in the novel: the color red, water, and Lucie's hair.

13. What were the proximate causes given in this book for the French Revolution?

14. What is Dickens' opinion of capital punishment?

15. Refer to the text to support or refute the following statement: Dickens is sympathetic to the plight of the French peasants but is opposed to mob rule.

16. Discuss the three examples of the existence of doubles in this novel. How do they add suspense and interest to the story?

17. If Mr. Lorry is a caricature of the consummate business man, cite incidents which indicate what the following characters represent: the Defarges, Lucie Manette, Miss Pross, and Mr. Stryver.

18. Compare and contrast Charles Darnay's life in prison with Dr. Manette's prison life. How well does each adapt to prison life?

19. Define parallelism. Why do you think the first and last lines of this novel are so famous?

20. What do you infer is the author's idea of the ideal woman?

21. List three horrible deaths that are graphically described in this story. Why do you think Dickens spends so much time writing about the gruesome details?

22. Discuss the characteristics of an historical novel that are prominently illustrated in *A Tale of Two Cities*.

23. What is Bastille Day, and what role did it have in the French Revolution?

24. Define the following terms: "Letre de cachet," "Law of the Suspected," and "Carmagnole."

25. What evidence is there in the story that Darnay's death sentence is inevitable because of the excesses of the French aristocracy?

26. Why does Dickens sometimes switch from third-person narration to first-person narration? Do you think he consciously makes this change?

27. Cite examples of personification in this story.

28. One of the major themes in this novel is the idea that rebirth is possible through sacrifice. How does Dickens illustrate the truth of this theme in the lives of the following characters: Dr. Manette, Sydney Carton, and Charles Darnay?

29. Briefly describe the excesses enjoyed by the Marquis before the revolution. In what ways are the leaders of the revolution corrupted by the power they gain?

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Notes

This historical novel, which takes place at the time of the French Revolution, presents the French Revolution as the natural or fated consequence of the social ills of the times. The growing poverty in which the masses of people lived and the oppression they suffered at the hands of the aristocracy were the proximate causes for the civil unrest that led to the French Revolution.

Keeping in mind that Dickens originally wrote the novel for a weekly publication, notice how he maintains the suspense and interest of his readers by providing cliff-hangers at the end of many chapters. Note the first and last lines in the novel, too; no other novel in English has an opening and closing as well known as the first and last lines of *A Tale of Two Cities*.

All references come from the Prestwick House Literary Touchstone Press edition of *A Tale of Two Cities*, copyright 2005.

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Answer Key

1.	E	6.	C	11.	A	16.	D
2.	C	7.	A	12.	D	17.	A
3.	E	8.	C	13.	C	18.	B
4.	D	9.	A	14.	B	19.	A
5.	B	10.	B	15.	E	20.	B

A Tale of Two Cities

Study Guide
Teacher's Copy

BOOK THE FIRST
Recalled to Life

Chapter 1 - The Period

Vocabulary
epoch–a particular historical period
incredulity–disbelief
superlative–excellent
revelations–acts of communicating truth or making it known
conceded–granted as a privilege
potentate–one who wields great power
turnkeys–persons in charge of prisoners' keys
blunderbusses–short muskets
contraband–smuggled goods
requisition–state of being called upon to perform a duty

1. The first sentence in this novel is one of the most famous first lines in the history of literature. How is it also an example of parallelism?

   In the first line of this novel, each clause is followed by an opposing clause: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness…" (Pg. 9) The technique of keeping phrases parallel heightens the dissimilarities among the words, as well as emphasizing the confusion of the times.

2. Find the reference in this first chapter to the Continental Congress of 1775 that sent a list of complaints to the Parliament. What is Dickens' opinion of this list?

   He thinks it is a very important document for the human race because it spells out the need for human rights and the unfair burdens put on the ordinary man by the nobility.

3. Define the following terms: the woodsman, the Farmer, trumbils of the Revolution, and the movable framework. List two factors presented in this chapter which contribute to the unrest of the French people.

   The Woodsman is fate personified; the Farmer personifies death. Trumbils of the Revolution are the carts in which the people to be killed are transported, and the movable framework is the guillotine. France is printing worthless paper money and executing peasants for frivolous reasons.

4. Find a quotation which shows that Dickens does not approve of capital punishment as a deterrent to crime.

   Dickens' disapproval of capital punishment is shown in the following quotation where he states the hangman is useless: "In the midst of them, the hangman, ever busy and ever worse than useless, was in constant requisition." (Pg. 11)

5. What evidence is there in the last paragraph of this first chapter that Dickens believes in fate?

   He says in the last sentence that the nobility and the peasants are conducted "along the roads that lay before them." (Pg. 11) This phrase implies they are moving along roads already built and going in a predetermined direction—fate.

Chapter 2 - The Mail

Vocabulary
endued–equipped with
capitulated–gave up resistance
jack-boots–heavy military boots
substratum–underlying layer
cutlass–short, curving sword
adjuration–earnest urging
cessation–halt
eddying–moving in a circular current
apprehend–anticipate with fear or anxiety
expeditiously–in a speedy manner

1. Charles Dickens is well known for the way his imagery sets the mood for the action to come. Find an example in this chapter of imagery that suggests to the reader that something bad is going to happen.

   Answers will vary. Example: "There was a steaming mist in all the hollows, and it had roamed in its forlornness up the hill, like an evil spirit, seeking rest and finding none." (Pg. 13) The simile of the evil spirit and the word forlornness suggest something bad is going to happen.

2. Briefly identify Mr. Lorry and Jerry. What does the answer "recalled to life" suggest to the reader about the nature of Mr. Lorry's business in Dover? (Pg. 16)

   Mr. Lorry is a banker from Tellson's Bank and a passenger on the mail coach to Paris.Jerry is a messenger from the bank with a hoarse voice. The strange answer suggests that Mr. Lorry's business is secret and confidential.

3. Since Dickens wrote this novel in weekly installments, there is often a hook at the end of each chapter to keep the reader's interest until the next installment. What is the hook at the end of this chapter?

   The reader is left wondering about what the strange message "recalled to life" means and why it would be bad for Jerry if people could really be brought back to life. (Pg. 16)

4. What form of narration is used in the following quotation? What are the advantages of this type of narration for the author?
   "Jerry, left alone in the mist and darkness, dismounted meanwhile, not only to ease his spent horse, but to wipe the mud from his face." (Pg. 17)

   Third-person narration, omniscient view is used in the above quotation. This type of narration lets the author reveal the motivations of all of the characters with God-like clarity.

Chapter 3 - The Night Shadows

Vocabulary
referable–related to, and explained by cause of
inexorable–relentless
fain–obliged
accost–approach and speak to

1. Why does Dickens switch from third-person to first-person narration in the first paragraph of this chapter?

   The first-person narration emphasizes the ideas in the first paragraph. Dickens switches to first-person narration to stress the idea that all people have a secret inner personality unknown even to their family and friends.

2. Briefly describe the first dream Mr. Lorry has on the Dover mail.

   He dreams he is in Tellson's Bank. He goes down to the storerooms full of valuables and secrets to be sure everything is safe and secure.

3. What is revealed about the purpose of Mr. Lorry's trip to Dover? What evidence is there that Mr. Lorry is worried that a man who has been buried for eighteen years and who can no longer function in the world?

   The purpose of the trip is to "dig some one out of a grave." (Pg. 21) Answers will vary. Example: He keeps asking the man, "I hope you care to live?" and getting the answer "I can't say." (Pg. 21) These lines can be interpreted to mean the man does not understand life anymore after being buried for so long.

Chapter 4 - The Preparation

Vocabulary
drawer–person who removes liquor from its container
packet–passenger boat
piscatory–relating to fish
pier-glass–large, high interior
acquit–perform a duty and release from obligation
pecuniary–pertaining to money
supplicatory–beseeching, expressing earnest entreaty
gradations–advances by regular degrees

1. Many critics believe the character of Lucie Manette represents Charles Dickens' ideal woman. Briefly describe Lucie and list the qualities she possesses that might make her Dickens' ideal woman.

   Lucie is small, blonde, blue-eyed, slender, and respectful of her elders. She clearly wants the protection of Mr. Lorry for her journey, is loved by her companion, and demonstrates her delicate sensitive nature by becoming physically paralyzed by the news that her father is alive.

2. What connection did Mr. Lorry have to Miss Manette when she was a small child?

   He was the one who brought her to England when she was orphaned as a small child.

3. Why is it necessary for Mr. Lorry and Lucie to travel together to Paris?

   He is going to identify the man they found in the prison as Dr. Manette. Lucie is going to help her father recover his "life, love, duty, rest, comfort." (Pg. 30)

4. What are the blank forms for consignment mentioned in this chapter? How do they contribute to Mr. Lorry's need for secrecy and his use of the code "Recalled to Life"? (Pg. 16)

   The blank forms are warrants for imprisonment available to influential noblemen, giving them the authority to have someone put in prison for their own personal reasons. Mr. Lorry needs to maintain absolute secrecy because it is unknown which important French nobleman had Dr. Manette sent to prison.

5. Support or refute the following statement: The wild-looking woman who comes to Lucie's aid is a caricature of a loyal British servant.

   Answers will vary. Example: She is a caricature because she exaggerates the qualities of a loyal British servant. She is a very loyal British subject who is also loyal to her mistress, acts like a fierce fighter, and thinks England is the only proper place to live. In addition, she has red hair like the red British uniforms of the time. She is described as wearing a silly hat like a big cheese and behaves with an exaggerated loyalty to Lucie, even going so far as to push Mr. Lorry against a wall.

Chapter 5 - The Wine-shop

Vocabulary
billets–chunky pieces of wood
modicum–small amount
offal–waste
atomies–tiny particles
farthing–small value of money
porringer–shallow cup or bowl
gloweringly–in a manner characterized by sullen, angry expressions
kennel–gutter in a street
implacable–unchanging
feigned–pretended
triumvirate–group of three
garret–attic

1. What do you think the spilled wine symbolizes in this story?

   The wine may be a symbol for the blood spilled in the revolution. The wine and the blood are both red. The peasants stop their everyday activities to indulge in the frenzied drinking of the wine just as the revolutionaries suspend their lives to watch the executions of the nobles.

2. Find an example of how Charles Dickens uses personification to draw the emotions and sympathies of the reader to the suffering of the peasants.

   Answers will vary. Example: "Hunger stared down from the smokeless chimneys, and started up from the filthy street that had no offal, among its refuse, of anything to eat." (Pg. 35)

3. Briefly describe the wine shop owner. What does the following passage from this chapter say about the character of the wine shop owner?
   "…a man of a strong resolution, and a set purpose; a man not desirable to be met rushing down a narrow pass with a gulf on either side, for nothing would turn the man." (Pg. 36)

   He is thirty, dark, good-humored, and stubborn, with dark curly hair and good eyes. The passage says he is intractable in his attitudes and stubbornly set in his ways.

4. Briefly describe Madame Defarge. What is she doing with her hands? What does the following passage from this chapter say about her character?
   "…one might have predicated that she did not often make mistakes against herself in any of the reckonings over which she presided." (Pg. 36)

   She is thirty, stout, and very composed. She wears rings and has a steady face with strong features. She is knitting. She is a shrewd, confident woman.

5. What information about Lucie's father's state of mind is revealed to Mr. Lorry during the climb up the five flights of stairs to Dr. Manette's room?

   He needs to be alone in a locked room. He was alone in prison for eighteen years and does not feel safe or comfortable in any other situation.

6. Who are the other Jacques, and why does Monsieur Defarge show them Dr. Manette in his pitiful condition? What is implied about the secret lives of Monsieur and Madame Defarge?

   Jacques Defarge wants to show a select group of men, each known only by the name of Jacques, Dr. Manette because he thinks it will do them good to see firsthand the cruelty of the upper class. It is implied that Monsieur and Madame Defarge are members of an underground movement working against the nobility of France.

Chapter 6 - The Shoemaker

Vocabulary
provender–food
postilion–person who rides a coach and guides the rear horse of a pair

1. What is peculiar about the way Dr. Manette listens to the visitors? What is One Hundred and Five, North Tower?

   Dr. Manette has lost all understanding of where sound originates. When someone speaks, he first looks at the floor to his left and then to his right before finding the speaker. One Hundred and Five, North Tower, is the number of his prison cell and the name he calls himself.

2. How does Dr. Manette behave toward Lucie? For whom does he mistake her? What is in the folded rag around his neck?

   He seems to recognize her but then returns to his work as if she were not there. He opens the folded rag and reveals several blonde hairs the same color as Lucie's. At first, he thinks Lucie is his wife but soon realizes Lucie is too young.

3. Read the following quotation. What do you think Lucie's hair symbolizes in the story? "His cold white head mingled with her radiant hair, which warmed and lighted it as though it were the light of Freedom shining on him." (Pg. 48)

   Dr. Manette remembers his wife and home when he sees Lucie's golden hair. It symbolizes home and freedom for Dr. Manette.

4. Why is Dr. Manette confused when he finally goes down the stairs with his daughter?

   He does not remember being brought to the house. He thinks he is still in the tower room of the prison and is surprised when he realizes they are not at the prison.

5. Why do you think Dr. Manette wants his shoemaking tools before he will leave the wine shop?

   Answers will vary. Example: He thinks he may be dreaming and still be in the prison. If he is in prison, he needs his shoemaking tools.

6. What is the hook Dickens uses at the end of this chapter to entice the reader back next week for the new chapter?

   He leaves the reader wondering if Dr. Manette will regain any of his lost mental abilities.

BOOK THE SECOND
The Golden Thread

Chapter 1 - Five Years Later

Vocabulary
incommodious–uncomfortable
extemporised–improvised
urchin–mischievous youngster
deprecated–expressed disapproval of
reversionary–relating to the act of returning
cogitated–pondered, meditated

1. In the following quotation, Dickens compares Tellson's Bank with England. List the qualities, both positive and negative, that he attributes to the old bank and that he also attributes to old England. Be sure to include the bank's position on capital punishment.
   "In this respect the House was much on a par with the Country; which did very often disinherit its sons for suggesting improvements in laws and customs that had long been highly objectionable, but were only the more respectable."
   (Pg. 53)

   Tellson's is described as small, dark, old, decaying, and very respectable; it is said to be ugly, lacking modern facilities, and very proud of its long history. The bank figuratively puts anyone to death who commits even the smallest of crimes.

2. Why do you think Jerry Cruncher is against his wife's praying on his behalf? What is implied by the mud on his boots?

   Jerry thinks his wife's praying is going to prevent him from earning some money. He gets mud on his boots late at night, which implies that he is doing something after dark to earn money. Whatever it is, his wife disapproves of it and feels the need to pray for her husband.

3. How are young Jerry and his father alike? Why do you suppose Mr. Cruncher frequently has rust on his fingers?

   They both have spiky hair and like to bully people. Answers will vary. Example: The rust is probably the result of Mr. Cruncher's after-hours job, which also results in the mud on his boots.

Chapter 2 - A Sight

Vocabulary
superscribed–wrote on the outside of a letter or envelope
proviso–qualifying clause, stipulation

1. What is Jerry Cruncher's opinion of execution by quartering?

   He thinks that it is unnecessarily cruel and that killing a man should be enough of a punishment.

2. Briefly describe the prisoner, Charles Darnay. Why is he fascinating to the crowd?

   He is a young, good-looking man with dark eyes, dark hair, a sunburned cheek, and a self-possessed manner. The crowd is fascinated by him because of the horrible sentence he faces.

3. Why is there a mirror over the prisoner's head?

   It is there to reflect the light onto the prisoner to make him more visible to the crowds.

4. Who are the witnesses against Charles Darnay? Why is Mr. Lorry sitting with the defense attorney?

   The witnesses are Lucie and her father. They do not want to testify against Charles Darnay. Mr. Lorry is there as their friend to help Mr. Darnay.

Chapter 3 - A Disappointment

Vocabulary
immolate–kill as a sacrifice
asseveration–earnest declaration
unimpeachable–beyond doubt or reproach
antipathies–enmities, hatreds
refection–refreshment with food and drink

1. Briefly outline the charges the Attorney General presents against Mr. Darnay.

   Mr. Darnay is accused of traveling frequently to France, beginning with the start of the American Revolution. It is known that France helped the Americans, so any help to France is considered treason. Darnay travels to France on secret missions which he refuses to explain. The Attorney General has a witness who will testify he found incriminating papers among Mr. Darnay's personal things.

2. How does Mr. Solicitor-General try to discredit John Barsad's testimony?

   Mr. Solicitor-General suggests that he is not credible because he has been in debtors' prison, cheats at dice, and owes the prisoner money. Mr. Solicitor-General also suggests that John Barsad planted the incriminating papers on Charles Darnay.

3. How does Mr. Solicitor-General try to discredit Roger Cly's testimony?

   He suggests Cly is a thief and, being a good friend of John Barsad's, is part of the plan to incriminate Charles Darnay.

4. In what ways is Miss Manette's testimony against Mr. Darnay both helpful and damaging to his case?

   She helps him by portraying him as a kind, helpful gentleman. Her testimony hurts because she admitted witnessing him talking to two Frenchman just before the ship departs. He admits to her on the voyage that he had secret business in France and would be making several more journeys. He was traveling under an assumed name. Also, he tried to explain to her the reasons for the American Revolution.

5. How does Mr. Carton help Mr. Stryver cast doubt on the testimony of the witness who was in the Dover mail with Mr. Lorry five years earlier?

   Mr. Carton writes a note to Mr. Stryver suggesting that he ask the witness if he notices any resemblance between Mr. Carton and Mr. Charles Darnay. Everyone is stunned by the resemblance between the two men, which cast doubt on the witness' testimony.

6. What is revealed about Mr. Carton's character by his behavior toward Lucie and Mr. Darnay?

   Mr. Carton is very observant and is interested in Lucie. He is insolent when he is talking to Charles Darnay but gives him hope by saying it is in his favor that the jury is taking so long to reach a verdict. Mr. Carton is a complex character who is perhaps hiding his good side.

7. One of the major themes in this novel is the idea that resurrection is possible. How does this theme apply to Charles Darnay's acquittal for treason?

   Most prisoners accused of treason are convicted, so they are considered dead men at their own trials. Since Charles Darnay is acquitted, he has been recalled to life, or resurrected.

Chapter 4 – Congratulatory

Vocabulary
solicitor– lawyer
incumbent–required, obligatory
barrister–type of lawyer
laconic–terse

1. Briefly describe Mr. Stryver. In what way is he unfair to Mr. Carton?

   He is thirty but looks fifty and is stout and red-faced. Stryver is unfair to Carton because he takes full credit for Darnay's acquittal.

2. What evidence is there that Carton is jealous of Charles Darnay?

   Answers will vary.
   Example: Carton is attracted to Lucie although he does not admit it. He is jealous that she pities Darnay. He is also jealous that Darnay is not wasting his life and talents.

Chapter 5 - The Jackal

Vocabulary
Bacchanalian–tending toward drunken celebration
eke–also
glib–easy and often superficial in speech
hob–projection on the fireplace for keeping something warm
bumper–a brimming drinking vessel
throttle–throat
blight–something that frustrates hopes

1. What is the secret to Stryver's success as an attorney?

   He hires Carton to evaluate his legal cases and point out strategies to win the cases.

2. Briefly describe how Carton looks when he is working at Stryver's desk.

   He is concentrating on the work, drinking, and wearing wet towels on his head.

3. What do we learn about Carton's childhood? What does Carton blame for his miserable life?

   He did the other boys' homework when he was still in school just as he does Stryver's homework now. He blames his bad luck for the miserable life he leads.

4. Find a quotation in this chapter which suggests that Carton may believe in fate.

   While discussing Stryver's success and Carton's failure, Stryver says, "I had to get into the front rank; I was not born there, was I?" Carton replies, "I was not present at the ceremony; but my opinion is you were." (Pg. 86)

Chapter 6 - Hundreds of People

Vocabulary
imputation–accusation
retributive–reward or punishment, especially in the hereafter
compunction–remorse
albeit–although
footpads–people who rob pedestrians

1. Why is Miss Pross unhappy because there are "dozens" and "hundreds" of people coming to visit Lucie? (Pg. 92)

   She is complaining about the visitors because she thinks they will want to marry Lucie.

2. Who is Solomon?

   He is Miss Pross' brother who took her money and left her in poverty.

3. What questions does Mr. Lorry ask Miss Pross concerning the doctor and his shoemaking tools?

   He wants to know if the doctor remembers who had him imprisoned and if he still thinks about his years in jail.

4. Why is Dr. Manette afraid to remember his past?

   He is afraid to dwell too much on the reasons for his imprisonment because, if he remembers too much, he may lose himself to the past and begin making shoes again.

5. Why do you think Darnay's story about the prisoner in the tower upsets Dr. Manette?

   He may have written something when he was a prisoner and hid it in his cell. The story about the prisoner in the tower reminds him of the note.

6. Comment on Dickens' use of foreshadowing at the end of this chapter when Lucie, Carton, and Darnay discuss the crowds in the streets of London. Some readers find this to be too lengthy. Did you?

   Answers will vary. Example: The crowds suggest to the reader the mobs of the French Revolution. The foreshadowing is lengthy and seems to be overdone. Dickens is writing with a dramatic flair because he intends to read the story to a live audience.

Chapter 7 - Monseigneur in Town

Vocabulary
escutcheon–shield bearing a coat of arms
manifest–clearly apparent
episcopal–relating to government by a hierarchy
cowed–intimidated

1. What is almost comic about the way Dickens illustrates the excesses enjoyed by the Monseigneur, a character representing the upper class of France?

   It is ridiculous that the Monseigneur requires four men just to pour his chocolate.

2. Briefly list the noble ideas that the Monseigneur believes to be true.

   The nobles of the time ignore the business of the public and think all public business should enhance their power and wealth; they think the world is made for their pleasure.

3. Who is the Farmer General, and what is his relationship to the Monseigneur?

   The Farmer General is the Monseigneur's brother-in-law. The Monseigneur let him marry his sister because the Farmer General wants the family connection and the Monseigneur needs the Farmer General's wealth.

4. What is ironic about the following conversation between Defarge and Monsieur the Marquis?

Defarge begins, "Be a brave man, my Gaspard! It is better for the poor little plaything to die so, than to live. It has died in a moment without pain. Could it have lived an hour as happily?"

"You are a philosopher, you there," said the Marquis, smiling.

"How do they call you?"

"They call me Defarge."…

"Pick up that, philosopher and vendor of wine, said the Marquis, throwing him another gold coin…" (Pgs. 104-105)

The Marquis, in his conceit, thinks Defarge is trying to help him by telling Gaspard that the death of the child is a blessing. When Defarge throws the coin back into the carriage, he is really saying that life in France is so terrible because of the excesses of the aristocracy that the child is better off dead.

5. Read the following passage. What do you think the water in the fountain may symbolize in this story?

"The water of the fountain ran, …so much life in the city ran into death according to rule, time and tide waited for no man, …all things ran their course." (Pg. 105)

The water from the fountain may be a symbol of the terrible fate awaiting the nobility of France at the hands of the revolutionists.

Chapter 8 - Monseigneur in the Country

Vocabulary
fagged–toiled
propitiate–gain the favor of
clemency–mercifulness
felicitously–pleasantly
obsequiousness–subservience, excessive attentiveness
precipitated–hurled downward
flambeau–flaming torch

1. Why is the Marquis annoyed with the mender of roads?

The mender of roads notices a man hanging onto the back of the Marquis' carriage. The Marquis is annoyed with the mender of roads because he does not immediately alert the Marquis to the man's presence.

2. How does the poor woman's husband die? What does she want from the Marquis?

   Her husband dies of hunger. She requests a piece of wood or stone to mark his grave.

3. Whom do you think the Marquis is expecting when he arrives back at his château?

   He is expecting a visit from Monsieur Charles, probably Charles Darnay.

Chapter 9 - The Gorgon's Head

Vocabulary
incommode–inconvenience
poniarded–pierced or killed by a type of dagger
comportable–in accordance with

1. What is the family relationship between Charles Darnay and the Marquis? What evidence is there that Darnay suspects the Marquis contributed to the treason charges he faced in England?

   The Marquis is Darnay's uncle, his father's twin brother. Darnay says that he thinks his uncle helped to make the English suspicious of his trips to France.

2. Read the following quotation. What do you think is the Marquis' opinion about the best way to handle the peasants?
   "Repression is the only lasting philosophy. The dark deference of fear and slavery, my friend," observed the Marquis, "will keep the dogs obedient to the whip as long as this roof," looking up to it, "shuts out the sky." (Pg. 117)

   The Marquis truly believes that repression, fear, and slavery are the best ways to keep the peasants in line.

3. Why does Darnay plan to abandon the property of his family when he inherits it from his uncle?

   He thinks it is a ruin of waste, mismanagement, oppression, hunger, and suffering.

4. In the following passage from the story, to what mystery is Darnay alerted by his uncle's behavior?

   "As he bent his head in his most courtly manner, there was a secrecy in his smiling face, and he conveyed an air of mystery to those words, which struck the eyes and ears of his nephew forcibly." (Pg. 119)

   Darnay is alerted to a connection between the Marquis and Dr. Manette.

5. What does the note attached to the knife tell the reader about the identity of the Marquis' murderer?

   Since it is signed Jacques, the reader knows the murder has been committed by a member of the revolutionary group headed by Monsieur Defarge.

Chapter 10 - Two Promises

1. How does Darnay earn his living in England?

   He teaches French language and literature.

2. What promise does Darnay make to Dr. Manette concerning Lucie?

   Darnay states that he will never do anything to separate Dr. Manette and Lucie even if Lucie agrees to be his wife. Darnay wants the doctor to promise to tell Lucie that he believes Darnay is sincere in his promise to keep them together. In addition, he wants the doctor to promise he will not say or do anything to keep Lucie from accepting Darnay's proposal.

3. What promise concerning his past does Darnay make to Dr. Manette?

   He will reveal his true identity to Dr. Manette only when the doctor asks for it or on the morning of his marriage to Lucie.

4. What evidence is there that Dr. Manette is greatly disturbed by the prospect of Darnay and Lucie's marriage?

   When Lucie comes home that night, she finds her father making shoes. He reverts to shoemaking only when he is very upset.

Chapter 11 - A Companion Picture

Vocabulary
incorrigible–incapable of being corrected or reformed
ostentatious–pretentiously showy

1. Why does Mr. Stryver want to marry Lucie? Why does this character's name seem appropriate for him?

   Mr. Stryver is a conceited man who wants to marry Lucie to please himself. He says that he is well off, a man of distinction, and a piece of good fortune for her. He thinks she will be a good wife because she will "always do me credit." (Pg. 134) Mr. Stryver is a striver after success. In Dickens' novels, the names of his characters frequently have a significance.

2. Why does Stryver suggest to Carton that Carton consider finding a wife for himself?

   He thinks Carton is going to need a nurse and should marry a landlady who will be available to take care of him when he needs it.

Chapter 12 - The Fellow of Delicacy

Vocabulary
magnanimous–generous and noble
self-abnegating–self-denying
forensically–argumentatively
bootless–useless

1. What does Mr. Lorry say to Stryver to discourage him from proposing marriage to Lucie?

   He says that it would be painful for Stryver, Dr. Manette, and Lucie if she should refuse the offer of marriage. He suggests Stryver wait for a few hours and let Mr. Lorry find out what the answer will be before Mr. Stryver proposes marriage.

2. How does Mr. Stryver handle the situation when Lorry comes to visit him later that evening?

   He pretends that he is relieved Lucie does not want to marry him and that he is sorry he considered it in the first place. He suggests that Lucie is a foolish girl and concludes that he is better off out of the situation.

Chapter 13 - The Fellow of No Delicacy

Vocabulary
profligates–wastefully extravagant people

1. Why does Carton say that he is grateful that Lucie does not love or want to marry him?

   He is grateful that she does not love him because he thinks he will bring her only misery. "If it had been possible, Miss Manette, that you could have returned the love of the man you see before you …. he would have been conscious this day and hour,…that he would bring you to misery…pull you down with him." (Pg. 142)

2. Does it strike you as odd that Carton cannot conceive of himself changing for the better?

   While answers may vary, the idea of fate may enter in to a rationale of Carton's mindset.

3. What secret does Carton ask Lucie to keep as the "last confidence" of his life? (Pg. 143)

   He wants her to know about his love but to keep his declaration a secret. He wants to remember that at least he is capable of telling her how he feels even if he is not capable of changing himself for the better.

4. Assume the closing of this chapter is an example of foreshadowing. What future event do you thinks Dickens may be suggesting to the reader?

   Dickens is suggesting that, at some future time, Carton will give his life to help Lucie "… keep a life you love beside you!" (Pg. 144)

Chapter 14 - The Honest Tradesman

Vocabulary
vociferating–clamoring
refractory–unmanageable
apostrophising–addressing an absent or personified thing rhetorically

1. What is Jerry Cruncher's after-hours secret occupation that results in mud on his boots and rust on his fingers?

   He digs up fresh graves and sells the corpses to doctors for medical research.

2. List three examples of mischief in which the crowds following Roger Cly's funeral engage after the casket is buried. Why does the mob finally disperse?

   The mob breaks windows, plunders public houses, and pulls down summer houses. They disperse because there is a rumor the guards are coming.

3. Why do you think young Jerry wants to be a Resurrection-Man? What does the phrase "no fish for breakfast" suggest about the success or failure of Mr. Cruncher's nighttime occupation? (Pg. 152)

   Young Jerry wants to be a grave robber like his father. There is no fish for breakfast because Mr. Cruncher has been unable to deliver a corpse to the doctor, so he does not get any extra money.

Chapter 15 – Knitting

Vocabulary
vinous–relating to wine
parricide–person who murders his or her father, mother, or other close relative
superciliously–haughtily

1. How do you know that the mender of roads is a revolutionary? Where does Monsieur Defarge take the mender of roads?

   He is a revolutionary because Monsieur Defarge introduces him by the code name, Jacques. Monsieur Defarge takes him to the same upstairs room where Dr. Manette worked on his shoes after being released from prison.

2. Who is the tall man described by the mender of the roads? What is his crime? Why do the people of the village have hope that he will not be executed?

   He is Gaspard, the man whose child was killed by the Marquis. He killed the Marquis and has been hiding for a year in the hills. Petitions have been sent to the king to spare his life because he killed only after going mad as a result of the death of his child.

3. Many critics believe Dickens had a fascination with horrifying scenes. What evidence is there in this chapter that the critics may be correct?

   The death of Damiens, who attempted to assassinate King Louis XV, is described in gory detail.

4. Why is the method of Gaspard's execution particularly cruel, not only for Gaspard, but for the peasants?

   He is hanged from a forty-foot scaffold right over the community fountain. His body is polluting the water and frightening the women and children.

5. What do the Jacques mean when they vote to register the Marquis' château and "all the race"? (Pg. 161)

   Madame Defarge will knit a record of the crimes of the Marquis and the punishment voted on by the Jacques. The château is to be destroyed, and all of the Marquis family are sentenced to death.

6. What does the following metaphor say about Monsieur Defarge's plans for the mender of the roads?
   "Judiciously show a dog his natural prey, if you wish him to bring it down one day." (Pg. 162)

   He is going to take the mender of the roads to see the King and his court so he will recognize them when the time comes to overthrow the monarchy.

Chapter 16 - Still Knitting

Vocabulary
aquiline–resembling an eagle's beak

1. Briefly describe John Barsad. Why does Madame Defarge register him as one of the men who is marked for death in her knitted registry of names?

   John Barsad is English, forty, and five foot nine, with black hair, dark eyes, and a thin face. She knits his name into her registry because he is a spy for the French government.

2. Support or refute the following statement: Madame Defarge is more patient and more confident than her husband that the revolution is coming in their lifetime.

   She is content to prepare for the revolution and never loses her courage. She criticizes her husband for his lack of confidence when she says, "But it is your weakness that you sometimes need to see your victim and your opportunity to sustain you." Also, she refuses to listen to his worries that their work will not be realized in their lifetime and says, "Nothing that we do is done in vain. I believe, with all my soul, that we shall see the triumph." (Pg. 168)

3. What does Madame Defarge do to alert the other customers that a spy has entered the wine shop? What does the spy say that rattles Monseiur Defarge?

   Madame Defarge pins a rose to her head dress. The spy tells Monseiur Defarge that Lucie is about to marry Charles Darnay.

4. What is the "structure yet unbuilt" mentioned in the following passage? Why do you think Dickens makes reference to it at the end of this chapter?
   "So much was closing in about the women who sat knitting, knitting, that they their very selves were closing in around a structure yet unbuilt, where they were to sit knitting, knitting, counting dropping heads." (Pg. 173)

   The unbuilt structure is the guillotine. Dickens is trying to create interest by reminding the reader about the horrible deaths awaiting the aristocracy of France and perhaps Charles Darnay, too.

Chapter 17 - One Night

Vocabulary
anatomise–dissect, analyze
apocryphal–of questionable authenticity

1. Dr. Manette refers to his past imprisonment the night before Lucie's wedding. What is Lucie's reaction to this conversation?

   She is alert to the references he makes to the past but not alarmed by them. He seems to be comparing his life then with the happy life he has now.

2. One of the major themes in this novel is the confusion between reality and illusion. Cite an event in this chapter illustrating this theme.

   Dr. Manette talks about imagining a child coming to him in his cell and leading him out to freedom. This child is imaginary. In reality, Lucie, as an adult, leads her father into a normal life after his release.

3. What epithets does Dickens give to the following characters?
Madame Defarge - *always knitting*

Charles Darnay - *a generous man*

Mr. Lorry - *a man of business*

Lucie Manette - *golden hair*

Dr. Manette - *white hair*

Miss Pross - *red hair*

Jerry Cruncher - *spiked hair*

4. The night before her wedding, why do you think Lucie checks in on her father while he is sleeping?

She needs to be sure he is sleeping well and is not making shoes or pacing the floor. After seeing him, she feels free to marry Darnay.

Chapter 18 - Nine Days

1. Just before Darnay's marriage to Lucie, what do you suppose Charles Darnay and Dr. Manette are speaking about behind the closed door of the doctor's room?

Charles Darnay is telling Dr. Manette about his relationship to the Marquis and the reasons he is living in England.

2. Why do you think Dr. Manette begins to make shoes again after waving good-bye to Lucie and her new husband?

There is a relationship between his past imprisonment and the Marquis. His conversation with Darnay causes Dr. Manette's relapse into the role of the shoemaker.

3. What does Mr. Lorry observe about Dr. Manette's shoemaking skills after the ninth day? What does he tell Lucie about her father?

Dr. Manette is getting very skillful at making shoes. Mr. Lorry and Miss Pross do not tell Lucie about her father's relapse.

Chapter 19 - An Opinion

1. What is Mr. Lorry and Miss Pross' plan once they realize that Dr. Manette is awake on the tenth morning and no longer making shoes?

   They decide to pretend everything is normal until after breakfast. If the doctor is still functioning, then Mr. Lorry will talk to him about his relapse.

2. Mr. Lorry carefully discusses Dr. Manette's condition with the old man. What three questions does Mr. Lorry ask Dr. Manette to answer in the course of this discussion?

   First, he wants to know if a relapse from the same cause is possible for the future. Next, he asks if overwork could cause a relapse. Finally, he asks if it would be better if they removed the shoemaking tools.

3. Why does the doctor resist the idea of giving up his shoemaking tools?

   He needed them to survive his imprisonment and is afraid to be without them. He feels secure having them around. Also, they have been part of his life for so long that they are like an old companion.

4. Under what conditions does the doctor agree to the removal of the shoemaking tools?

   They must be removed when he is not present.

Chapter 20 - A Plea

Vocabulary
claptrap–insincere language

1. Why does Carton ask Darnay for his friendship?

   He wants his permission to visit their home occasionally.

2. What does Lucie ask her husband to do for her regarding Carton?

   She wants Darnay to remember that Carton does have a good heart despite his many faults. She wants him always to treat Carton generously.

Chapter 21 - Echoing Footsteps

Vocabulary
turbid–foul, muddy
execrations–acts of cursing and denunciation
parley–discussion
dumb-show–pantomime
abolished–reduced to nothing, destroyed

1. In this chapter, time passes for the Darnay family. Briefly describe what happens to the following people:
   Lucie's son - *He dies.*

   Carton - *He visits six times a year and is always sober when he comes.*

   Stryver - *He marries a widow with three sons.*

2. Why is Mr. Lorry upset when he arrives at Dr. Manette's house?

   The bank is very busy because its French depositors are taking their assets out of France and putting them into Tellson's.

3. What do Monseiur Defarge, his wife, and the other Jacques do on July 14, 1789?

   They lead a mob to the Bastille; the mob storms the prison and releases the prisoners.

4. Once inside the Bastille, what does Monseiur Defarge do? What does Madame Defarge do to the governor?

   He goes to One Hundred and five, North Tower. There, he searches the room for something. The reader knows this is the cell in which Dr. Manette spent eighteen years.

   Madame Defarge cuts the governor's head off.

5. What do you think water symbolizes in this story? Cite incidents from the story to support your answer.

   Answers will vary. Water is a symbol for life. The water in the fountains keeps the peasants alive. When the man who killed the Marquis is hanged over the fountain, the water is polluted, and the peasants suffer.

Chapter 22 - The Sea Still Rises

Vocabulary
chary–wary
portentously–in a manner indicating something is about to occur
miscreant–evildoer
winnowing–separating, sifting
viands–food

1. Briefly describe The Vengeance.

   She is the wife of the grocer and mother of two children. She is Madame Defarge's second in command and is as vicious and as murderous as her leader.

2. Who is old Foulon, and why is he marked for death by the Defarges? What happens to his son-in-law?

   He is a man who does not care that other people are dying from starvation. He tells them to eat grass. His cruelty lasts for threescore and ten years. He is killed by the people of Saint Antoine.

   Old Foulon's son-in-law is also killed, and his head is placed on a pike.

3. How do the killings by the peasants of Saint Antonine impact the lives of the poor and hungry peasants?

   While the killings do not directly impact the quality of their lives so early in the revolution, the peasants do feel the comradeship that develops between people fighting for their survival as a result. Dickens writes, "Yet, human fellowship infused some nourishment into the flinty viands, and struck some sparks of cheerfulness out of them." (Pg. 211)

Chapter 23 - Fire Rises

Vocabulary
swart–swarthy
benighted–ignorant
kine–cows
sacristan–sexton, one responsible for care of church property
tocsin–alarm bell
conflagration–fire
edifice–building, especially a large, imposing one
begirt–shrouded

1. Who is the man in wooden shoes? What does he do?

   The man in the wooden shoes is a member of the revolution. He sets the Marquis' château on fire.

2. Who is Monsieur Gabelle? How does he escape the people of his village?

   He is the tax and rent collector. He spends the night on the roof of his house.

3. Why do you think the mender of the roads and the other village people decide to light candles in all of their windows?

   They are showing their support for the revolution.

Chapter 24 - Drawn to the Loadstone Rock

Vocabulary
mote–speck
dissimulation–hiding behind a false appearance
munificent–very generous
vapouring–idle, extravagant speech
craven–coward
recompense–repay
sequestration–seizure of property
remitted–refrained from collecting
imposts–taxes
succour–come to the aid of
dolorous–miserable, sorrowful
latent–present but inactive
reservation–something withheld

1. Define loadstone. What is the Loadstone Rock in this story, and who is drawn to it?

   Loadstone is a type of rock that is a strong magnet. The Loadstone Rock is France, and Darnay is drawn to it.

2. Why is Mr. Lorry traveling to France? Who is he taking with him?

   He is going to rescue some important papers for the bank. He is taking Jerry Cruncher with him as a bodyguard.

3. Find a quotation in this chapter confirming the fact that Darnay does confide his true identity to Dr. Manette the morning of his marriage.

   "On the marriage morning, Dr. Manette had made it his one urgent and express request to Charles Darnay that the secret of this name should be…kept inviolate between them." (Pg. 223)

4. What does Mr. Stryver think of the mysterious Marquis St. Evrémonde?

   He thinks the Marquis is a coward for abandoning his property to the mob.

5. Assuming Gabelle's plea for help is the catalyst that makes Darnay want to return to France, what other reasons could Darnay have for deciding to go back?

   He knows that he left France in a hurry and did not take the time to explain fully his reasons for wanting to renounce his social place. Darnay feels like a coward for not returning sooner to dispose of his property properly and give the people who work for him, like Gabelle, his support. He wants to go back to try to stop the bloodshed.

BOOK THE THIRD
The Track of a Storm

Chapter 1 - In Secret

Vocabulary
equipages–carriages
fraught–full of
dragoon–military
farrier–person who shoes horses
postmaster–person who supplies courier horses
ambuscade–ambush
ingress–entrance
egress–exit
wicket–gate

1. Why does Darnay pay to have an escort to Paris?

   He is forced to pay for the escort by the patriots because he is an aristocrat and an emigrant.

2. What decree is passed by the revolutionary government of France the same day that Darnay leaves the safety of England to travel to Paris?

   All emigrants are banished, and the revolutionaries can sell the emigrants' property. If they return to France, they are condemned to death.

3. Why does Defarge refuse to help Darnay by contacting Mr. Lorry at Tellson's bank?

   Defarge is loyal to the people and against Darnay, an emigrant. In addition, he blames Darnay's uncle for Dr. Manette's imprisonment.

4. In the prison, why does Darnay compare the aristocrats jailed with him to ghosts?

   The aristocrats maintain their fine manners even in the filthy prison. They look out of place and time. They are like ghosts of the past. The world in which they have lived is unreal and no longer exists.

5. What does it mean to be kept "In secret"? (Pg. 234)

   Darnay will be kept in solitary confinement.

Chapter 2 - The Grindstone

Vocabulary
metempsychosis–transmigration of souls
ligatures–bandages
descried–discerned

1. Why does Mr. Lorry hustle Lucie into a back room and lock the door as soon as she and her father arrive at Tellson's Bank?

   He is trying to protect her from the sight of the grindstone where the revolutionaries are sharpening their weapons for murdering the prisoners at La Force.

2. How does Dr. Manette plan to help his son-in-law?

   Dr. Manette is a privileged person in Paris because he is one of the political prisoners from the Bastille.

3. In the following passage, Dickens describes the courtyard containing the grindstone. Support or refute the following statement: Dickens approves of the revolution and the murders of the aristocracy.
   "…the sun was red on the courtyard. But, the lesser grindstone stood alone there in the calm morning air, with a red upon it that the sun had never given, and would never take away." (Pg. 244)

   Answers will vary. Example: Dickens does not approve of the murders. The aristocrats' deaths are unnatural (the red is not caused by the sun). The act of murder will stay with the murderers for eternity (would never be taken away).

Chapter 3 - The Shadow

Vocabulary
propitiate–appease

1. Throughout this novel, Dickens in many ways gives the reader clues about the action to come. One of the most obvious ways is his chapter titles. What is "The Shadow" referred to in this chapter title? How is it an example of foreshadowing?

   "The Shadow" is cast by Madame Defarge and The Vengeance over Lucie and her child as they are questioned by the revolutionaries. It is an example of foreshadowing because Dickens is making it clear that the lives Darnay's wife and daughter are in danger from the revolutionaries.

2. Who does Mr. Lorry escort to Lucie's lodgings?

   Mr. Lorry takes Monseiur and Madame Defarge and The Vengeance to see Lucie.

3. What evidence is there that Mr. Defarge does not want to mark Lucie and her family for death but is doing it because of his wife?

   When Mr. Lorry tells Lucie that Madame Defarge needs to meet everyone so she will know whom to protect, Monseiur Defarge "looked gloomily at his wife, and gave no other answer than a gruff sound of acquiescence." (Pg. 247)

4. What compliment does Lucie unwittingly pay Madame Defarge?

   She pleads with her to keep her husband safe and says that she is more afraid of Madame Defarge than any of the others. Madame Defarge takes that fear as a compliment.

5. Why do you think Dickens repeats the message of the shadow's sinister nature two more times, once from Lucie and again from Mr. Lorry at the end of the chapter?

   Since he is writing this in weekly installments, repeating the message serves to foreshadow possible upcoming action, build suspense, and bring the reader back for another installment the following week.

Chapter 4 - Calm in Storm

Vocabulary
injunction–order
alluvial–composed of material deposited by running water

1. Why does Dr. Manette believe his past imprisonment "all tended to a good end, …it was not mere waste and ruin"? (Pg. 252)

   He is in a position to help his daughter and her husband because of his status as a former prisoner of the Bastille. He becomes the inspecting physician at three prisons and is able to see Darnay regularly. He is respected and accepted by the revolutionaries. He hopes to use his influence to get Darnay cleared of the charges against him.

2. Define the following terms: The Tribunal, The Law of the Suspected

   The Tribunal is a self-appointed court made up of revolutionaries who sentence most of the prisoners to death. The Law of the Suspected permits the unlawful imprisonment of people who have not committed any crimes but are only suspected. They receive no hearings.

3. List three of the jokes the people of the time made about the guillotine.

   It was called a cure for headaches; it prevented hair from turning gray. It was also said to be the "National Razor which shaved close." (Pg. 254)

Chapter 5 - The Wood-sawyer

Vocabulary
slake–quench
avocations–occupations, customary employment
redundancy–repetitiveness
jocosely–in a joking manner

1. Where does Lucie go at three o'clock in the afternoon?

   She stands in the streets at a place selected by Dr. Manette. He thinks Darnay might be able to see her from a window at the prison if she stands there.

2. Who is the "Samson of the firewood guillotine"? (Pg. 259) What does Lucie do to gain his good will?

   He is the woodcutter who works near the place Lucie walks every day at three o'clock. She speaks to him first and gives him money.

3. What is the Carmagnole, and why is Lucie afraid of it?

   The Carmagnole is a dance done to a revolutionary song. The people work themselves into a frenzy as a way of "angering the blood, bewildering the senses, and steeling the heart." (Pg. 260) Lucie is afraid of the dancing people because she fears they might harm her husband.

Chapter 6 – Triumph

1. How do Darnay's fellow prisoners react when his name is called to appear before the Tribunal?

   They very quickly say good-bye and then return to their games and concerts for the evening.

2. What evidence is presented by the following witnesses in Darnay's defense?

   Gabelle - *He corroborates Darnay's story that Gabelle wrote to him for help.*
   Dr. Manette - *He testifies that Darnay is his friend, a devoted husband, and not in favor with the aristocrat government of England since he has been tried by them for treason.*

3. What is the "car of triumph" used to carry Darnay away from the prison? How does he feel while he is being carried by the mob? (Pg. 267)

   The car of triumph is a chair with a red flag over it and a pike with a red cap attached to the back. He is confused and imagines he is in a tumbril on his way to the guillotine.

Chapter 7 - A Knock at the Door

Vocabulary
retainer–servant, attendant
purveyors–suppliers or sellers

1. What is inscribed on the door of Dr. Manette's house?

   The names of all the people living in the house were inscribed on the door.

2. Now that Charles is released from La Force, why do they not all return immediately to England?

   Dr. Manette thinks doing so would be dangerous for Charles.

3. Who comes to arrest Darnay again? Who has denounced him?

   Four men with red caps come to arrest Charles. One of them is from Saint Antoine. The Defarges denounce Charles, as well as one other person not named in the chapter.

Chapter 8 - A Hand at Cards

Vocabulary
gregarious–sociable
spencer–short waist-length jacket
reticule–drawstring bag
culpability–blameworthiness
cant–slang
subornation–inducement to commit perjury
vaunting–boastfully calling attention to
signally–notably
tergiversation–desertion of a cause or position
dissonance–lack of agreement
blackguard–scoundrel
taciturn–uncommunicative
antecedents–significant events of a person's earlier life
ferreted–hunted, harried

1. What is the relationship between John Barsad and Miss Pross? How has he harmed her in the past? Where has Sydney Carton seen him before?

   John Barsad is Solomon, Miss Pross' brother who ran away with her money many years earlier. He testified at Charles' treason trial.

2. List the three "cards" Carton holds which will force Barsad to help him with his plan to free Darnay. (Pg. 280)

   First, Barsad is using a false name. Next, he has been employed in the past by the aristocratic English government; and, finally, Barsad could be suspected of being a spy for England against the French Republic.

3. How does Jerry Cruncher help convince Barsad to cooperate with Carton?

   Jerry knows that Cly is not dead because he tried to rob his grave. In addition, Barsad is associated with Cly, who they can now prove is a spy for England. If he does not help, Barsad will be denounced by Carton as a spy, too.

Chapter 9 - The Game Made

Vocabulary
prevaricate–lie
peroration–concluding part of a discourse
proscribed–outlawed

1. What reasons does Jerry Cruncher give to convince Mr. Lorry that it would not be fair of him to fire Jerry from his Tellson's job just because he is a grave robber?

   First, Jerry points out that Mr. Lorry has known Jerry for a long time. There are probably doctors, banking at Tellson's, who pay men like Jerry to get the corpses. If Mr. Lorry has a problem with Jerry's grave robbing, he should also have a problem with the doctors who pay him as well.

2. In what capacity does Barsad agree to help Carton?

   He agrees to get Carton in to see Darnay if Darnay is convicted and sentenced to die.

3. Why do you think Carton remembers the words spoken at his father's funeral–"I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord"–after purchasing some kind of drugs from the chemist shop? (Pg. 290)

   He is thinking about dying himself, or at least risking his life, and remembers the words from his father's funeral.

4. Who are the three people who denounce Darnay and make him "absolutely Dead in Law"? (Pg. 293) What document does Defarge have that condemns Darnay to death?

   Monsieur Defarge, Madame Defarge, and Alexandre Manette, physician, denounce Darnay. Defarge has a paper written by Dr. Manette while he was a prisoner.

Chapter 10 - The Substance of the Shadow

Vocabulary
quay–wharf
anathematised–made something cursed or shunned

1. Who is narrating most of this chapter?

   Dr. Manette narrates most of this chapter. The doctor's journal, written in 1767, is being read aloud.

2. Where has the doctor hidden his journal? What kind of ink does he use to write it? How long has he been a prisoner?

   He hides it in the chimney of the prison cell. He uses a combination of blood, rust, and soot to make ink. He has been a prisoner for ten years.

3. Why does the woman in the journal count to twelve over and over as part of her feverish ravings?

   Her husband was forced by the nobles to pull a cart like an animal until he died. Just before his death in his wife's arms, he sobbed the twelve strokes of the bell.

4. Why does the doctor think the raving young woman will not survive? What secret does she keep from the doctor?

   He discovers that she is pregnant. She refuses to tell him her family name.

5. What happens to the woman's brother, father, and younger sister?

   Her father dies of heart failure when he hears about the rape and abduction of his daughter. The brother dies of a sword wound from the Marquis. The younger sister is taken to a safe place by her brother.

6. How does the "rouleau of gold" contribute to Dr. Manette's ultimate imprisonment? (Pg. 303)

   The gold is his payment from the Marquis and his brother for helping the woman and her brother. The doctor refuses the payment when it is offered in the woman's sick room but later finds the gold delivered to his home. He is still troubled by the deaths, so he decides to write to the Minister and tell him about the circumstances surrounding the two deaths.

7. What does the wife of the Marquis want from the doctor?

   At first, she wants to offer her sympathy to the poor woman. After she realizes the woman is dead, she asks about her sister. She wants to give her some jewels to try to atone for her husband's sins.

8. How is Ernest Defarge, the wine shop owner, connected to Dr. Manette before his imprisonment?

   As a young man, Defarge is the doctor's servant.

9. What does the doctor say in this journal that condemns his son-in-law to death?

   He writes, "And them and their descendants, to the last of their race, I…denounce to the times when all these things shall be answered for. I denounce them to Heaven and to earth." (Pg. 305)

Chapter 11 – Dusk

Vocabulary
recognisant–perceptive, affording acknowledgment

1. What is the significance of the words Carton murmurs against Lucie's cheek when he kisses her, "A life you love"? (Pg. 309)

   Earlier, when he confesses his love for her, he promises that he would give his life so she could keep the life she loves. Carton is planning to sacrifice himself to free Lucie's husband.

2. Why does Carton want Dr. Manette to send a message to Mr. Lorry's at nine o'clock that evening?

   Carton wants to know if Dr. Manette is successful in persuading them to spare Darnay's life. It is his last hope before sacrificing himself.

Chapter 12 - Darkness

Vocabulary
inveteracy–tenacity

1. Why does Carton go to the wine shop? What does he learn there about Dr. Manette, Lucie, her child, and Madame Defarge? Why do the Defarges speak so freely in front of Carton?

   He goes to the shop so it may be widely known that another man looks like Darnay. He learns that Madame Defarge wants to exterminate the entire Manette family. Madame Defarge is the younger sister mentioned in the earlier chapter. The Defarges speak freely because Carton leads them to believe he does not understand French.

Chapter 13 - Fifty-two

Vocabulary
apprised–informed
assignation–meeting between lovers
sloughs–mud hollows

1. What is the significance of the title of this chapter?

   Fifty-two people are scheduled to die that day. Carton must replace Darnay rather than try to help him escape because there must be fifty-two people for the guillotine.

2. How does John Barsad help Carton with his plan to save Darnay?

   He removes Darnay's unconscious body, dressed as Carton, and takes Darnay to Mr. Lorry's waiting coach.

3. How does the plight of the seamstress illustrate one of the main flaws in the revolution?

   The seamstress is accused of plots. She is a poor, weak creature innocent of the charges of plotting against the Republic. The revolution is flawed because it is no better than the nobles at dispensing justice to the weak people under its rule. The leaders of the revolution, like the nobles, carelessly execute innocent people.

4. What type of narration is used in the following passage? Why do you think Dickens switches narrative styles for this part of the story?
"We are through the village, up the hill, and down the hill, and on the low watery grounds." (Pg. 328)

The passage is an example of first-person narration. Dickens changes from third-person to first-person narration so the reader can feel the excitement and danger along with the people in the carriage. First-person narration makes their flight from France more exciting and personal.

Chapter 14 - The Knitting Done

Vocabulary
voluble–talkative
epicure–one with discriminating tastes, especially in food or wine
impeach–challenge
alacrity–cheerful eagerness
accoutred–outfitted

1. Why does Madame Defarge decide to visit Lucie before her husband's execution?

She wants to catch Lucie while she is crying and grieving for her husband. It is against the law to grieve for someone killed on the guillotine.

2. Why does Jerry Cruncher change his mind about his wife's flopping?

He is scared for his life and the lives of the Manette family. He is sorry now that he ridiculed his wife for praying. He is also sorry he robbed graves and plans to change his ways if he ever returns safely to England.

3. State a theme for this story which incorporates the main reason Dickens gives for Miss Pross' being strong enough to defeat Madame Defarge.

Love is stronger than hate.

Chapter 15 - The Footsteps Die Out for Ever

Vocabulary
insatiate–incapable of being satisfied
rapacious–greedy
sundry–various
expiation–act of making atonement

1. The last words of this chapter are some of the most famous ever written: "It is a far, far better thing that I do, than I have ever done; it is a far far better rest that I go to than I have ever known." (Pg. 343) In what ways is this statement true for Sydney Carton? Why do you suppose this has become such a famous last line from a novel?

   Carton has spent his life drunk. He has wasted his talents and is considered a pitiful example of a man. By giving up his life for love, he earns himself an honored place in the Manette family and in heaven. While answers may vary, the nobility of Sydney Carton's sacrifice impresses most readers.

A Tale of Two Cities

Study Guide
Student Copy

BOOK THE FIRST
Recalled to Life

Chapter 1 - The Period

Vocabulary
epoch–a particular historical period
incredulity–disbelief
superlative–excellent
revelations–acts of communicating truth or making it known
conceded–granted as a privilege
potentate–one who wields great power
turnkeys–persons in charge of prisoners' keys
blunderbusses–short muskets
contraband–smuggled goods
requisition–state of being called upon to perform a duty

1. The first sentence in this novel is one of the most famous first lines in the history of literature. How is it also an example of parallelism?

2. Find the reference in this first chapter to the Continental Congress of 1775 that sent a list of complaints to the Parliament. What is Dickens' opinion of this list?

3. Define the following terms: the woodsman, the Farmer, trumbils of the Revolution, and the movable framework. List two factors presented in this chapter which contribute to the unrest of the French people.

4. Find a quotation which shows that Dickens does not approve of capital punishment as a deterrent to crime.

5. What evidence is there in the last paragraph of this first chapter that Dickens believes in fate?

Chapter 2 - The Mail

Vocabulary
endued–equipped with
capitulated–gave up resistance
jack-boots–heavy military boots
substratum–underlying layer
cutlass–short, curving sword
adjuration–earnest urging
cessation–halt
eddying–moving in a circular current
apprehend–anticipate with fear or anxiety
expeditiously–in a speedy manner

1. Charles Dickens is well known for the way his imagery sets the mood for the action to come. Find an example in this chapter of imagery that suggests to the reader that something bad is going to happen.

2. Briefly identify Mr. Lorry and Jerry. What does the answer "recalled to life" suggest to the reader about the nature of Mr. Lorry's business in Dover? (Pg. 16)

3. Since Dickens wrote this novel in weekly installments, there is often a hook at the end of each chapter to keep the reader's interest until the next installment. What is the hook at the end of this chapter?

4. What form of narration is used in the following quotation? What are the advantages of this type of narration for the author?
   "Jerry, left alone in the mist and darkness, dismounted meanwhile, not only to ease his spent horse, but to wipe the mud from his face." (Pg. 17)

Chapter 3 - The Night Shadows

Vocabulary
referable–related to, and explained by cause of
inexorable–relentless
fain–obliged
accost–approach and speak to

1. Why does Dickens switch from third-person to first-person narration in the first paragraph of this chapter?

2. Briefly describe the first dream Mr. Lorry has on the Dover mail.

3. What is revealed about the purpose of Mr. Lorry's trip to Dover? What evidence is there that Mr. Lorry is worried that a man who has been buried for eighteen years and who can no longer function in the world?

Chapter 4 - The Preparation

Vocabulary
drawer–person who removes liquor from its container
packet–passenger boat
piscatory–relating to fish
pier-glass–large, high interior
acquit–perform a duty and release from obligation
pecuniary–pertaining to money
supplicatory–beseeching, expressing earnest entreaty
gradations–advances by regular degrees

1. Many critics believe the character of Lucie Manette represents Charles Dickens' ideal woman. Briefly describe Lucie and list the qualities she possesses that might make her Dickens' ideal woman.

2. What connection did Mr. Lorry have to Miss Manette when she was a small child?

3. Why is it necessary for Mr. Lorry and Lucie to travel together to Paris?

4. What are the blank forms for consignment mentioned in this chapter? How do they contribute to Mr. Lorry's need for secrecy and his use of the code "Recalled to Life"? (Pg. 16)

5. Support or refute the following statement: The wild-looking woman who comes to Lucie's aid is a caricature of a loyal British servant.

Chapter 5 - The Wine-shop

Vocabulary
billets–chunky pieces of wood
modicum–small amount
offal–waste
atomies–tiny particles
farthing–small value of money
porringer–shallow cup or bowl
gloweringly–in a manner characterized by sullen, angry expressions
kennel–gutter in a street
implacable–unchanging
feigned–pretended
triumvirate–group of three
garret–attic

1. What do you think the spilled wine symbolizes in this story?

2. Find an example of how Charles Dickens uses personification to draw the emotions and sympathies of the reader to the suffering of the peasants.

3. Briefly describe the wine shop owner. What does the following passage from this chapter say about the character of the wine shop owner?
   "…a man of a strong resolution, and a set purpose; a man not desirable to be met rushing down a narrow pass with a gulf on either side, for nothing would turn the man." (Pg. 36)

4. Briefly describe Madame Defarge. What is she doing with her hands? What does the following passage from this chapter say about her character?
"…one might have predicated that she did not often make mistakes against herself in any of the reckonings over which she presided." (Pg. 36)

5. What information about Lucie's father's state of mind is revealed to Mr. Lorry during the climb up the five flights of stairs to Dr. Manette's room?

6. Who are the other Jacques, and why does Monsieur Defarge show them Dr. Manette in his pitiful condition? What is implied about the secret lives of Monsieur and Madame Defarge?

Chapter 6 - The Shoemaker

Vocabulary
provender–food
postilion–person who rides a coach and guides the rear horse of a pair

1. What is peculiar about the way Dr. Manette listens to the visitors? What is One Hundred and Five, North Tower?

2. How does Dr. Manette behave toward Lucie? For whom does he mistake her? What is in the folded rag around his neck?

3. Read the following quotation. What do you think Lucie's hair symbolizes in the story?
"His cold white head mingled with her radiant hair, which warmed and lighted it as though it were the light of Freedom shining on him." (Pg. 48)

4. Why is Dr. Manette confused when he finally goes down the stairs with his daughter?

5. Why do you think Dr. Manette wants his shoemaking tools before he will leave the wine shop?

6. What is the hook Dickens uses at the end of this chapter to entice the reader back next week for the new chapter?

BOOK THE SECOND
The Golden Thread

Chapter 1 - Five Years Later

Vocabulary
incommodious–uncomfortable
extemporised–improvised
urchin–mischievous youngster
deprecated–expressed disapproval of
reversionary–relating to the act of returning
cogitated–pondered, meditated

1. In the following quotation, Dickens compares Tellson's Bank with England. List the qualities, both positive and negative, that he attributes to the old bank and that he also attributes to old England. Be sure to include the bank's position on capital punishment.
   "In this respect the House was much on a par with the Country; which did very often disinherit its sons for suggesting improvements in laws and customs that had long been highly objectionable, but were only the more respectable."
   (Pg. 53)

2. Why do you think Jerry Cruncher is against his wife's praying on his behalf? What is implied by the mud on his boots?

3. How are young Jerry and his father alike? Why do you suppose Mr. Cruncher frequently has rust on his fingers?

Chapter 2 - A Sight

Vocabulary
superscribed–wrote on the outside of a letter or envelope
proviso–qualifying clause, stipulation

1. What is Jerry Cruncher's opinion of execution by quartering?

2. Briefly describe the prisoner, Charles Darnay. Why is he fascinating to the crowd?

3. Why is there a mirror over the prisoner's head?

4. Who are the witnesses against Charles Darnay? Why is Mr. Lorry sitting with the defense attorney?

Chapter 3 - A Disappointment

Vocabulary
immolate–kill as a sacrifice
asseveration–earnest declaration
unimpeachable–beyond doubt or reproach
antipathies–enmities, hatreds
refection–refreshment with food and drink

1. Briefly outline the charges the Attorney General presents against Mr. Darnay.

2. How does Mr. Solicitor-General try to discredit John Barsad's testimony?

3. How does Mr. Solicitor-General try to discredit Roger Cly's testimony?

4. In what ways is Miss Manette's testimony against Mr. Darnay both helpful and damaging to his case?

5. How does Mr. Carton help Mr. Stryver cast doubt on the testimony of the witness who was in the Dover mail with Mr. Lorry five years earlier?

6. What is revealed about Mr. Carton's character by his behavior toward Lucie and Mr. Darnay?

7. One of the major themes in this novel is the idea that resurrection is possible. How does this theme apply to Charles Darnay's acquittal for treason?

Chapter 4 – Congratulatory

Vocabulary
solicitor– lawyer
incumbent–required, obligatory
barrister–type of lawyer
laconic–terse

1. Briefly describe Mr. Stryver. In what way is he unfair to Mr. Carton?

2. What evidence is there that Carton is jealous of Charles Darnay?

Chapter 5 - The Jackal

Vocabulary
Bacchanalian–tending toward drunken celebration
eke–also
glib–easy and often superficial in speech
hob–projection on the fireplace for keeping something warm
bumper–a brimming drinking vessel
throttle–throat
blight–something that frustrates hopes

1. What is the secret to Stryver's success as an attorney?

2. Briefly describe how Carton looks when he is working at Stryver's desk.

3. What do we learn about Carton's childhood? What does Carton blame for his miserable life?

4. Find a quotation in this chapter which suggests that Carton may believe in fate.

Chapter 6 - Hundreds of People

Vocabulary
imputation–accusation
retributive–reward or punishment, especially in the hereafter
compunction–remorse
albeit–although
footpads–people who rob pedestrians

1. Why is Miss Pross unhappy because there are "dozens" and "hundreds" of people coming to visit Lucie? (Pg. 92)

2. Who is Solomon?

3. What questions does Mr. Lorry ask Miss Pross concerning the doctor and his shoemaking tools?

4. Why is Dr. Manette afraid to remember his past?

5. Why do you think Darnay's story about the prisoner in the tower upsets Dr. Manette?

6. Comment on Dickens' use of foreshadowing at the end of this chapter when Lucie, Carton, and Darnay discuss the crowds in the streets of London. Some readers find this to be too lengthy. Did you?

Chapter 7 - Monseigneur in Town

Vocabulary
escutcheon–shield bearing a coat of arms
manifest–clearly apparent
episcopal–relating to government by a hierarchy
cowed–intimidated

1. What is almost comic about the way Dickens illustrates the excesses enjoyed by the Monseigneur, a character representing the upper class of France?

2. Briefly list the noble ideas that the Monseigneur believes to be true.

3. Who is the Farmer General, and what is his relationship to the Monseigneur?

4. What is ironic about the following conversation between Defarge and Monsieur the Marquis?
   Defarge begins, "Be a brave man, my Gaspard! It is better for the poor little plaything to die so, than to live. It has died in a moment without pain. Could it have lived an hour as happily?"
   "You are a philosopher, you there," said the Marquis, smiling.
   "How do they call you?"
   "They call me Defarge."…
   "Pick up that, philosopher and vendor of wine, said the Marquis, throwing him another gold coin…" (Pgs. 104-105)

5. Read the following passage. What do you think the water in the fountain may symbolize in this story?
   "The water of the fountain ran, …so much life in the city ran into death according to rule, time and tide waited for no man, …all things ran their course." (Pg. 105)

Chapter 8 - Monseigneur in the Country

Vocabulary
fagged–toiled
propitiate–gain the favor of
clemency–mercifulness
felicitously–pleasantly
obsequiousness–subservience, excessive attentiveness
precipitated–hurled downward
flambeau–flaming torch

1. Why is the Marquis annoyed with the mender of roads?

2. How does the poor woman's husband die? What does she want from the Marquis?

3. Whom do you think the Marquis is expecting when he arrives back at his château?

Chapter 9 - The Gorgon's Head

Vocabulary
incommode–inconvenience
poniarded–pierced or killed by a type of dagger
comportable–in accordance with

1. What is the family relationship between Charles Darnay and the Marquis? What evidence is there that Darnay suspects the Marquis contributed to the treason charges he faced in England?

2. Read the following quotation. What do you think is the Marquis' opinion about the best way to handle the peasants?
   "Repression is the only lasting philosophy. The dark deference of fear and slavery, my friend," observed the Marquis, "will keep the dogs obedient to the whip as long as this roof," looking up to it, "shuts out the sky." (Pg. 117)

3. Why does Darnay plan to abandon the property of his family when he inherits it from his uncle?

4. In the following passage from the story, to what mystery is Darnay alerted by his uncle's behavior?
   "As he bent his head in his most courtly manner, there was a secrecy in his smiling face, and he conveyed an air of mystery to those words, which struck the eyes and ears of his nephew forcibly." (Pg. 119)

5. What does the note attached to the knife tell the reader about the identity of the Marquis' murderer?

Chapter 10 - Two Promises

1. How does Darnay earn his living in England?

2. What promise does Darnay make to Dr. Manette concerning Lucie?

3. What promise concerning his past does Darnay make to Dr. Manette?

4. What evidence is there that Dr. Manette is greatly disturbed by the prospect of Darnay and Lucie's marriage?

Chapter 11 - A Companion Picture

Vocabulary
incorrigible–incapable of being corrected or reformed
ostentatious–pretentiously showy

1. Why does Mr. Stryver want to marry Lucie? Why does this character's name seem appropriate for him?

2. Why does Stryver suggest to Carton that Carton consider finding a wife for himself?

Chapter 12 - The Fellow of Delicacy

Vocabulary
magnanimous–generous and noble
self-abnegating–self-denying
forensically–argumentatively
bootless–useless

1. What does Mr. Lorry say to Stryver to discourage him from proposing marriage to Lucie?

2. How does Mr. Stryver handle the situation when Lorry comes to visit him later that evening?

Chapter 13 - The Fellow of No Delicacy

Vocabulary
profligates–wastefully extravagant people

1. Why does Carton say that he is grateful that Lucie does not love or want to marry him?

2. Does it strike you as odd that Carton cannot conceive of himself changing for the better?

3. What secret does Carton ask Lucie to keep as the "last confidence" of his life? (Pg. 143)

4. Assume the closing of this chapter is an example of foreshadowing. What future event do you thinks Dickens may be suggesting to the reader?

Chapter 14 - The Honest Tradesman

Vocabulary
vociferating–clamoring
refractory–unmanageable
apostrophising–addressing an absent or personified thing rhetorically

1. What is Jerry Cruncher's after-hours secret occupation that results in mud on his boots and rust on his fingers?

2. List three examples of mischief in which the crowds following Roger Cly's funeral engage after the casket is buried. Why does the mob finally disperse?

3. Why do you think young Jerry wants to be a Resurrection-Man? What does the phrase "no fish for breakfast" suggest about the success or failure of Mr. Cruncher's nighttime occupation? (Pg. 152)

Chapter 15 – Knitting

Vocabulary
vinous–relating to wine
parricide–person who murders his or her father, mother, or other close relative
superciliously–haughtily

1. How do you know that the mender of roads is a revolutionary? Where does Monsieur Defarge take the mender of roads?

2. Who is the tall man described by the mender of the roads? What is his crime? Why do the people of the village have hope that he will not be executed?

3. Many critics believe Dickens had a fascination with horrifying scenes. What evidence is there in this chapter that the critics may be correct?

4. Why is the method of Gaspard's execution particularly cruel, not only for Gaspard, but for the peasants?

5. What do the Jacques mean when they vote to register the Marquis' château and "all the race"? (Pg. 161)

6. What does the following metaphor say about Monsieur Defarge's plans for the mender of the roads?
   "Judiciously show a dog his natural prey, if you wish him to bring it down one day." (Pg. 162)

Chapter 16 - Still Knitting

Vocabulary
aquiline–resembling an eagle's beak

1. Briefly describe John Barsad. Why does Madame Defarge register him as one of the men who is marked for death in her knitted registry of names?

2. Support or refute the following statement: Madame Defarge is more patient and more confident than her husband that the revolution is coming in their lifetime.

3. What does Madame Defarge do to alert the other customers that a spy has entered the wine shop? What does the spy say that rattles Monseiur Defarge?

4. What is the "structure yet unbuilt" mentioned in the following passage? Why do you think Dickens makes reference to it at the end of this chapter?
   "So much was closing in about the women who sat knitting, knitting, that they their very selves were closing in around a structure yet unbuilt, where they were to sit knitting, knitting, counting dropping heads." (Pg. 173)

Chapter 17 - One Night

Vocabulary
anatomise–dissect, analyze
apocryphal–of questionable authenticity

1. Dr. Manette refers to his past imprisonment the night before Lucie's wedding. What is Lucie's reaction to this conversation?

2. One of the major themes in this novel is the confusion between reality and illusion. Cite an event in this chapter illustrating this theme.

3. What epithets does Dickens give to the following characters?
   Madame Defarge - ¶

   Charles Darnay - ¶

   Mr. Lorry - ¶

   Lucie Manette - ¶

   Dr. Manette - ¶

   Miss Pross - ¶

   Jerry Cruncher - ¶

4. The night before her wedding, why do you think Lucie checks in on her father while he is sleeping?

Chapter 18 - Nine Days

1. Just before Darnay's marriage to Lucie, what do you suppose Charles Darnay and Dr. Manette are speaking about behind the closed door of the doctor's room?

2. Why do you think Dr. Manette begins to make shoes again after waving good-bye to Lucie and her new husband?

3. What does Mr. Lorry observe about Dr. Manette's shoemaking skills after the ninth day? What does he tell Lucie about her father?

Chapter 19 - An Opinion

1. What is Mr. Lorry and Miss Pross' plan once they realize that Dr. Manette is awake on the tenth morning and no longer making shoes?

2. Mr. Lorry carefully discusses Dr. Manette's condition with the old man. What three questions does Mr. Lorry ask Dr. Manette to answer in the course of this discussion?

3. Why does the doctor resist the idea of giving up his shoemaking tools?

4. Under what conditions does the doctor agree to the removal of the shoemaking tools?

Chapter 20 - A Plea

Vocabulary
claptrap–insincere language

1. Why does Carton ask Darnay for his friendship?

2. What does Lucie ask her husband to do for her regarding Carton?

Chapter 21 - Echoing Footsteps

Vocabulary
turbid–foul, muddy
execrations–acts of cursing and denunciation
parley–discussion
dumb-show–pantomime
abolished–reduced to nothing, destroyed

1. In this chapter, time passes for the Darnay family. Briefly describe what happens to the following people:

   Lucie's son -

   Carton -

   Stryver -

2. Why is Mr. Lorry upset when he arrives at Dr. Manette's house?

3. What do Monseiur Defarge, his wife, and the other Jacques do on July 14, 1789?

4. Once inside the Bastille, what does Monseiur Defarge do? What does Madame Defarge do to the governor?

5. What do you think water symbolizes in this story? Cite incidents from the story to support your answer.

Chapter 22 - The Sea Still Rises

Vocabulary
chary–wary
portentously–in a manner indicating something is about to occur
miscreant–evildoer
winnowing–separating, sifting
viands–food

1. Briefly describe The Vengeance.

2. Who is old Foulon, and why is he marked for death by the Defarges? What happens to his son-in-law?

3. How do the killings by the peasants of Saint Antonine impact the lives of the poor and hungry peasants?

Chapter 23 - Fire Rises

Vocabulary
swart–swarthy
benighted–ignorant
kine–cows
sacristan–sexton, one responsible for care of church property
tocsin–alarm bell
conflagration–fire
edifice–building, especially a large, imposing one
begirt–shrouded

1. Who is the man in wooden shoes? What does he do?

2. Who is Monsieur Gabelle? How does he escape the people of his village?

3. Why do you think the mender of the roads and the other village people decide to light candles in all of their windows?

Chapter 24 - Drawn to the Loadstone Rock

Vocabulary
mote–speck
dissimulation–hiding behind a false appearance
munificent–very generous
vapouring–idle, extravagant speech
craven–coward
recompense–repay
sequestration–seizure of property
remitted–refrained from collecting
imposts–taxes
succour–come to the aid of
dolorous–miserable, sorrowful
latent–present but inactive
reservation–something withheld

1. Define loadstone. What is the Loadstone Rock in this story, and who is drawn to it?

2. Why is Mr. Lorry traveling to France? Who is he taking with him?

3. Find a quotation in this chapter confirming the fact that Darnay does confide his true identity to Dr. Manette the morning of his marriage.

4. What does Mr. Stryver think of the mysterious Marquis St. Evrémonde?

5. Assuming Gabelle's plea for help is the catalyst that makes Darnay want to return to France, what other reasons could Darnay have for deciding to go back?

BOOK THE THIRD
The Track of a Storm

Chapter 1 - In Secret

Vocabulary
equipages–carriages
fraught–full of
dragoon–military
farrier–person who shoes horses
postmaster–person who supplies courier horses
ambuscade–ambush
ingress–entrance
egress–exit
wicket–gate

1. Why does Darnay pay to have an escort to Paris?

2. What decree is passed by the revolutionary government of France the same day that Darnay leaves the safety of England to travel to Paris?

3. Why does Defarge refuse to help Darnay by contacting Mr. Lorry at Tellson's bank?

4. In the prison, why does Darnay compare the aristocrats jailed with him to ghosts?

5. What does it mean to be kept "In secret"? (Pg. 234)

Chapter 2 - The Grindstone

Vocabulary
metempsychosis–transmigration of souls
ligatures–bandages
descried–discerned

1. Why does Mr. Lorry hustle Lucie into a back room and lock the door as soon as she and her father arrive at Tellson's Bank?

2. How does Dr. Manette plan to help his son-in-law?

3. In the following passage, Dickens describes the courtyard containing the grindstone. Support or refute the following statement: Dickens approves of the revolution and the murders of the aristocracy.
   "…the sun was red on the courtyard. But, the lesser grindstone stood alone there in the calm morning air, with a red upon it that the sun had never given, and would never take away." (Pg. 244)

Chapter 3 - The Shadow

Vocabulary
propitiate–appease

1. Throughout this novel, Dickens in many ways gives the reader clues about the action to come. One of the most obvious ways is his chapter titles. What is "The Shadow" referred to in this chapter title? How is it an example of foreshadowing?

2. Who does Mr. Lorry escort to Lucie's lodgings?

3. What evidence is there that Mr. Defarge does not want to mark Lucie and her family for death but is doing it because of his wife?

4. What compliment does Lucie unwittingly pay Madame Defarge?

5. Why do you think Dickens repeats the message of the shadow's sinister nature two more times, once from Lucie and again from Mr. Lorry at the end of the chapter?

Chapter 4 - Calm in Storm

Vocabulary
injunction–order
alluvial–composed of material deposited by running water

1. Why does Dr. Manette believe his past imprisonment "all tended to a good end, …it was not mere waste and ruin"? (Pg. 252)

2. Define the following terms: The Tribunal, The Law of the Suspected

3. List three of the jokes the people of the time made about the guillotine.

Chapter 5 - The Wood-sawyer

Vocabulary
slake–quench
avocations–occupations, customary employment
redundancy–repetitiveness
jocosely–in a joking manner

1. Where does Lucie go at three o'clock in the afternoon?

2. Who is the "Samson of the firewood guillotine"? (Pg. 259) What does Lucie do to gain his good will?

3. What is the Carmagnole, and why is Lucie afraid of it?

Chapter 6 – Triumph

1. How do Darnay's fellow prisoners react when his name is called to appear before the Tribunal?

2. What evidence is presented by the following witnesses in Darnay's defense?

   Gabelle -

   Dr. Manette -

3. What is the "car of triumph" used to carry Darnay away from the prison? How does he feel while he is being carried by the mob? (Pg. 267)

Chapter 7 - A Knock at the Door

Vocabulary
retainer–servant, attendant
purveyors–suppliers or sellers

1. What is inscribed on the door of Dr. Manette's house?

2. Now that Charles is released from La Force, why do they not all return immediately to England?

3. Who comes to arrest Darnay again? Who has denounced him?

Chapter 8 - A Hand at Cards

Vocabulary
gregarious–sociable
spencer–short waist-length jacket
reticule–drawstring bag
culpability–blameworthiness
cant–slang
subornation–inducement to commit perjury
vaunting–boastfully calling attention to
signally–notably
tergiversation–desertion of a cause or position
dissonance–lack of agreement
blackguard–scoundrel
taciturn–uncommunicative
antecedents–significant events of a person's earlier life
ferreted–hunted, harried

1. What is the relationship between John Barsad and Miss Pross? How has he harmed her in the past? Where has Sydney Carton seen him before?

2. List the three "cards" Carton holds which will force Barsad to help him with his plan to free Darnay. (Pg. 280)

3. How does Jerry Cruncher help convince Barsad to cooperate with Carton?

Chapter 9 - The Game Made

Vocabulary
prevaricate–lie
peroration–concluding part of a discourse
proscribed–outlawed

1. What reasons does Jerry Cruncher give to convince Mr. Lorry that it would not be fair of him to fire Jerry from his Tellson's job just because he is a grave robber?

2. In what capacity does Barsad agree to help Carton?

3. Why do you think Carton remembers the words spoken at his father's funeral–"I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord"–after purchasing some kind of drugs from the chemist shop? (Pg. 290)

4. Who are the three people who denounce Darnay and make him "absolutely Dead in Law"? (Pg. 293) What document does Defarge have that condemns Darnay to death?

Chapter 10 - The Substance of the Shadow

Vocabulary
quay–wharf
anathematised–made something cursed or shunned

1. Who is narrating most of this chapter?

2. Where has the doctor hidden his journal? What kind of ink does he use to write it? How long has he been a prisoner?

3. Why does the woman in the journal count to twelve over and over as part of her feverish ravings?

4. Why does the doctor think the raving young woman will not survive? What secret does she keep from the doctor?

5. What happens to the woman's brother, father, and younger sister?

6. How does the "rouleau of gold" contribute to Dr. Manette's ultimate imprisonment? (Pg. 303)

7. What does the wife of the Marquis want from the doctor?

8. How is Ernest Defarge, the wine shop owner, connected to Dr. Manette before his imprisonment?

9. What does the doctor say in this journal that condemns his son-in-law to death?

Chapter 11 – Dusk

Vocabulary
recognisant–perceptive, affording acknowledgment

1. What is the significance of the words Carton murmurs against Lucie's cheek when he kisses her, "A life you love"? (Pg. 309)

2. Why does Carton want Dr. Manette to send a message to Mr. Lorry's at nine o'clock that evening?

Chapter 12 - Darkness

Vocabulary
inveteracy–tenacity

1. Why does Carton go to the wine shop? What does he learn there about Dr. Manette, Lucie, her child, and Madame Defarge? Why do the Defarges speak so freely in front of Carton?

Chapter 13 - Fifty-two

Vocabulary
apprised–informed
assignation–meeting between lovers
sloughs–mud hollows

1. What is the significance of the title of this chapter?

2. How does John Barsad help Carton with his plan to save Darnay?

3. How does the plight of the seamstress illustrate one of the main flaws in the revolution?

4. What type of narration is used in the following passage? Why do you think Dickens switches narrative styles for this part of the story?
   "We are through the village, up the hill, and down the hill, and on the low watery grounds." (Pg. 328)¶

Chapter 14 - The Knitting Done

Vocabulary
voluble–talkative
epicure–one with discriminating tastes, especially in food or wine
impeach–challenge
alacrity–cheerful eagerness
accoutred–outfitted

1. Why does Madame Defarge decide to visit Lucie before her husband's execution?

2. Why does Jerry Cruncher change his mind about his wife's flopping?

3. State a theme for this story which incorporates the main reason Dickens gives for Miss Pross' being strong enough to defeat Madame Defarge.

Chapter 15 - The Footsteps Die Out for Ever

Vocabulary
insatiate–incapable of being satisfied
rapacious–greedy
sundry–various
expiation–act of making atonement

1. The last words of this chapter are some of the most famous ever written: "It is a far, far better thing that I do, than I have ever done; it is a far far better rest that I go to than I have ever known." (Pg. 343) In what ways is this statement true for Sydney Carton? Why do you suppose this has become such a famous last line from a novel?

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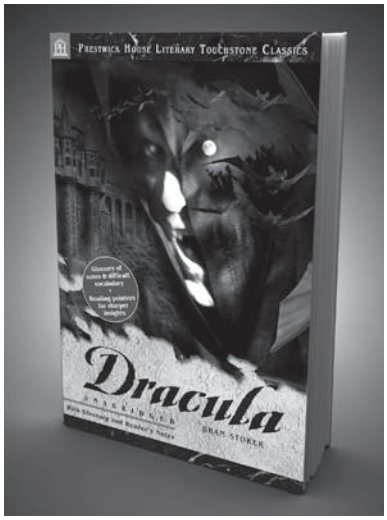

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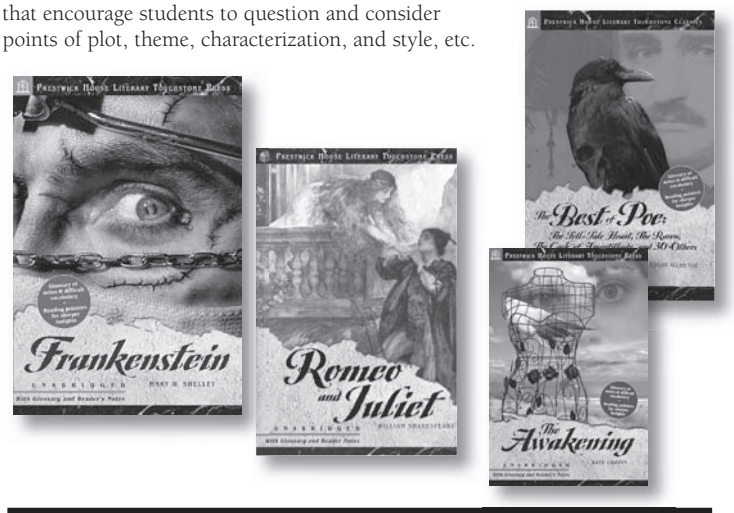

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