

A Tale of Two Cities

A Tale of Two Cities – Week 2, teaching notes by Ellen Crombie

*Review the Artist and Cartographer activities. Have students show off what they have done. Set up an art gallery at the front of the room for all to see, then collect items for credit. (5 minutes)

*Briefly review Genre, Setting, and backstory. Go over the Fun fact section by watching the short video and then asking everyone what they would like to have named after them. (10 minutes)

*Review Theme and what the possible themes of *A Tale of Two Cities* are. (Death and Resurrection, Love and sacrifice, any others as yet?) (5 minutes)

*Review the Christ Figure – a character who is sacrificed through no fault of his own or who sacrifices himself for the good of others. Louis Zamperini from *Unbroken* is a Christ Figure as a prisoner in Japan when he takes beatings for other prisoners and at one point has to uphold a wooden beam, like a cross, for hours. Who do we already know of as a type of Christ figure? (5 minutes)

*Review Setup and payoff – events are foreshadowed, that is the setup, when the actual event occurs is the payoff. Some of the foreshadowed events are mirror scenes – much like Sir Barrie used in *Peter Pan*. He also writes parallel situations. For example, he makes his disdain for the aristocracy clear with the Monseignor and Monsieur Evremonde, BUT he does not condone what the poor hungry people do. He depicts them as an angry mob that is out of control in several situations, such as the blood-thirsty blue flies in the courtroom eager for a sentence of guilty. (5 minutes)

*Start the discussion/game portion by asking if anyone has studied the French Revolution in history class. If not, explain that they will have better understanding of it after Reading the book. Ask if there were any truly confusing parts of the book that can be explained before we begin.

Homework: Read Book 2, ch. 10-24 (pgs. 99-189). Continue with lessons 5 and 6 in the Student Workbook and doing the Novel Notebook. Activity: Be the Prisoner for two hours.

A Kahoot game for the second 100 pages of *A Tale of Two Cities*: <https://create.kahoot.it/details/a-tale-of-two-cities-book-2-chapters-10-24/4f625172-9f1e-4191-aaae-99c86bf94b94>. Students will need to set up a free account.

Week 3 activities

Do a character review this week using Headbandz: Each student will receive the name of a character and has to wear it on a headband and ask questions as to who he or she is. I think it will be a fun way to review the characters and get some of my quieter students in front of the class.

For getting to know Charles Dickens, each table receives a sheet of information on him. Students then write their own true/false quizzes with their table based on that information. Then they swap with another table and take the test.

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Questions for Discussion/Game:

Book 1 CH. 1

1. The book opens with the main theme of duality. Give an example that is not the first line of the book. (England vs. France, the poor vs. the aristocracy, England's spirituality/superstition vs. France's fear of the monks, England's lax legal system allowing criminals to wreak havoc, vs. France's strict system that kills everyone for any crime, etc...)

Book 1 Ch. 2

1. Mr. Lorry receives a message from his bank while on a mail carriage heading from London to Dover. What was the message? (Wait at Dover for Mam'selle.)
2. What was Mr. Lorry's response? (Recalled to Life.)

Book 1 Ch. 3

1. Chapter 3 opens with the quote: A wonderful fact to reflect upon, that every human creature is constituted to be that profound secret and mystery to every other. What does this mean? (Everyone has a secret that they keep to themselves and do not share, even with those closest to them.)
2. At one of the taverns what does Jerry Cruncher call himself? (An honest tradesman)
3. What does Mr. Lorry keep dreaming about on the rest of his journey? (Digging out a prisoner that has been buried for nearly 18 years. He also asks if he wants to come back to life and if he will see his daughter.)

Book 1 Ch. 4

1. As Mr. Lorry is talking to Miss Manette about her father, he repeatedly references that everything is all a matter of business. Why? (To keep her calm and make it less of a shock. To convince himself that he has no personal stake/feelings on the matter despite his role in everything.)

Book 1 Ch. 5

1. What is the significance of the wine barrel breaking at the beginning of ch. 5? (It shows just how hungry and desperate the people are. It is also a foreshadowing of the revolution – the red wine in the street will soon be blood, and someone even writes the word blood on the wall with the wine. People are smeared with the wine as well, just as they are (figuratively) smeared with the blood of all the innocent people they have killed later.)
2. Why do the three men in the wine shop keep calling each other Jacques? (It's the code word for the men who are on the inside of the resistance/rebellion – see notes.)
The Parisian revolutionaries first began addressing each other as "Jacques" during the Jacquerie, a 1358 peasant uprising against French nobility. The nobles contemptuously referred to the peasants by the extremely common name of "Jacques" in order to accentuate their inferiority and deny their individuality. The peasants adopted the name as a war name. Just as the fourteenth-century peasants rallied around their shared low birth, so too do Dickens's revolutionaries fight as a unified machine of war. For example, at the storming of the Bastille in Book the Second, Chapter 21, Defarge cries out, "Work, comrades all, work! Work, Jacques One,

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Jacques Two, Jacques One Thousand, Jacques Two Thousand, Jacques Five-and-Twenty Thousand . . . work!"

Book 1 Ch. 6

1. What does Dr. Manette keep in a dirty pouch/rag around his neck and why? (A few of his wife's blond hairs that he found on his shirt sleeve to allow his spirit a chance to escape from time to time.)

Book 2 Ch. 1

1. Despite Jerry Cruncher insisting that he is an honest tradesman, what clues do we have in this chapter that he may have a less than reputable night job? (His boots are always muddy in the morning, he is red-eyed and grim as if he has been up all night, and his fingers are rusty.)
2. What does Jerry think his wife is praying for constantly? (Against his success and prosperity)

Book 2 Ch. 2

1. What is the prisoner on trial for at the Old Bailey, and what is the punishment? (Treason, and quartering – drawn on a hurdle, half hanged, sliced before his own face, his insides burnt in front of him, beheaded, then cut into quarters.)

Book 2 Ch. 3

1. How does Darnay's lawyer (Stryver) show the reader that John Barsad and Roger Cly are both potential scoundrels? (Barsad has been to debtor's prison more than once and currently owes Darnay money, Cly was accused of taking a silver teapot and a mustard pot. They are not the paragons of citizenship they are painted to be.)
2. How does Stryver achieve an acquittal for Darnay? (Carton points out that he and Darnay look a lot alike and thus put doubt in the juror's minds.)

Book 2 Ch. 4

1. Book 2 is subtitled the golden thread. Who or what is the golden thread and what is linked by it? (Lucie, by her love and concern for her father, links the past and present which heals her father's incoherence and fear.)
2. Who does Sydney Carton curse at the end of the chapter and why? (Himself because he is frustrated that he is not a better man like Darnay. They are very much alike in looks and brains, and yet he feels he is not as good as him.)

Book 2 Ch. 5

1. Stryver and Carton are referred to as the Lion and the Jackal. How is this not quite accurate? (A Lion is a strong predator while a jackal feasts on carrion. Carton is truly the brains behind the legal duo, while Stryver just uses him as he did back in their school days. Their roles are reversed from their nicknames.)

Book 2 Ch. 6

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1. Who are the hundreds of people that Miss Pross complains of to Mr. Lorry a metaphor for? (The coming of the mobs during the Revolution.)
2. Who are Lucie's only suitors that Mr. Lorry sees? (Sydney Carton and Charles Darnay)

Book 2 Ch. 7

1. The Monseigneur has four men to wait on him for what? (To bring him his chocolate to drink.)
2. Describe Monsieur Evremonde the Marquis by his looks and actions. (His nose is slightly pinched at the top of each nostril, he is treacherous and cruel, he runs over a little boy, calls people rats and dogs, throws money at them to "pay" for the death of the boy, wishes to exterminate them all from the earth.)

Book 2 Ch. 8

1. The Monseigneur (Monsieur Evremonde) stops his carriage on his way home, why? (He doesn't like the way a road mender was staring at him and wants to know why. The road mender saw a man hiding under the carriage.)

Book 2 Ch. 9

1. Charles Darnay is the nephew of Monseigneur Evremonde. He wishes to renounce any claim he would have on the property and house for he believes that the family has done horrible things and their family name is more detested than any other in France. What is his Uncle's response to this? (Detestation of the high is the involuntary homage of the low. He believes that they have every right to all of their money and prestige and that they have sustained their grandeur.)
2. What was Charles' mother's dying wish? (To have mercy and redress, which means to correct a wrong. THIS is what Charles was attempting to do at the beginning of the book when he was traveling back and forth under an assumed name from France to England.)
3. Who is the Jacques who wrote the note at the end of the chapter? (The father of the young boy who had been killed. He was also the man who hid under the carriage and was just outside the home behind the blinds while the Marquis was having dinner.)