# A Tale of Two Cities

**Charles Dickens** 





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# A Tale of Two Cities

by Charles Dickens

# **Teacher Guide**

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and
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#### Note

The Signet Classic paperback edition published by New American Library/Penguin Books was used to prepare this guide. The page references may differ in other editions.

**Please note:** Please assess the appropriateness of this book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading and discussing it with your class.

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#### **Ouestions for Discussion**

- 1. Describe Tellson's Bank. (page 61—old fashioned, dark, ugly, conservative, "the triumphant perfection of inconvenience")
- 2. What happened to a person who committed a crime against the bank? (As elsewhere in Britain, many criminals were executed for ever minor crimes.)
- 3. What does Jerry Cruncher do at Tellson's? (i s an 'd-jot man, an occasional porter and messenger.)
- 4. What clues does Dickens give by Je V. ancher's other job? (His boots, clean after his day at Tellson's, was on a vered with clay in the morning. His wife considers what he does to be more if ome way. He has rusty  $f^{ij}_{je}$ .

### Chapters Two & The

#### Summary

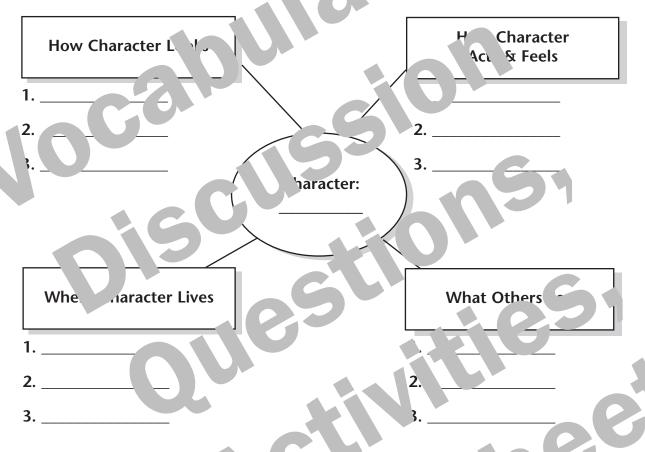
Throw e the Old Bailey, the courth case. Lands Darnay is about to be tried for tre on, no Mr. Lorry and Dr. and Lu race have been called as witnesses gan nim.

#### Questions for Discussion

- 1. What line on p are ribes the judicial ster at e 'd bailey? ("Whatever is,
- 2. Fin 'ines nat indicate why the specifiors njoy oming to the trials. ("Cb, they'll find, " juilty. Don't be afraid of the " 'hower gloss the spectators process of the process of the spectators of the process of the process of the spectators of the process of interest, according to their several acts are powers of self-decit, the univestiwal, at quartered by . `oa the
- 3. Of what was Parna accused? (treason—ocret co. es, no. 2 with the King of France)
- 4. Who is John Barsad? (an English patrice allee is a witness against Darne, the tells us that he is not altogether regible. Ye learn that Barso was in Sor had gotten in trouble for checa, at a ds and owes Darnay money.
- 5. Who is Roger Cly? (another wineess against Darney; Bother of Lessad are probably paid witnesses.)
- 6. "Mr. Attorney General" corresponds to whom 1 or legal system? (the prosecuting attorney) "Mr. Solicitor General"? Hefe se to, 2y)
- 7. How does Lucie feel about te. in to ar ay's presence and activities on the boat? (She feels guilty and m, as ate, doesn't want to cause him any trouble, and stresses that he treated her fact with great kindness.)

#### **Activity: Attribute Web**

As students read through Book the Second, they can make attribute webs for Lucie Manette, Charles Darnay, Dr. Manette, Mr. Lorry, Sydney Carton, Defarge, and Madame Defarge. An attribute web is simply a visual representation of a character from the novel. They provide a systematic way for the students to organize and recap information and thoughts they have. In group discosic about the completed webs, the teacher can ask for backup from the novel. Your Iden's have never used attribute webs before, you might in odu e a fivity to having the students fill in webs for themselves.



### **Chapter Four**

#### Summary

Darnay and Sydney Carton have dinner together no a out more about each.

#### **Questions for Discussion**

1. Has Dr. Manette completely i ve ed m his ordeal in prison? (He is still brooding over the past, and Lucie is 20 ly who can help him through the bad times.)

#### **Character Review**

Reproduce the chart below either on the chalkboard or on individual worksheets. Have the students complete the chart as a whole-class activity or individually as homework.

	Lives In	Nationality (country)	He/She Wants Most	Type*
Mr. Lorry Lucie Manette Dr. Manette Charles Darnay Sydney Carton Mr. Stryver John Barsad Roger Cly Jerra ur ver M Defa je Mn. Dafarge Taspard Gabelle The Marquis Mendo Roa				

<sup>\*</sup>good councter, villain, comic ch sure yet

#### **Plot Review**

Dickens' chapte attaching le novel conveniently into in n events and give clues to the content of the content of the seginning with the first the term on Book the First, ask the students to a set a two-sentence summerry fine in in event(s) of each ch read so far.

#### **Prediction**

Have the students make pre icons t some of the coming ev the novel. They should be able to justil redictions.

## **Chapter Sixteen**

#### **Summary**

John Barsad, the Old Bailey spy on the tiffed a line Darnay, reappears as a spy in the wine-shop. The Defarges lead that he les along is the nephew of Monsieur the Marquis, and that he is going v arı ucie Manette.