

More Timeless Classics

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A Tale of Two Cities - Comprehension Questions

Answer the following questions in complete sentences. Use the novel to check that your facts are correct. Make sure you include all the relevant information in your answer. Check your spelling and punctuation carefully.

1. Why had Lucie Manette traveled to Paris?
2. Who was the Shoemaker? What had happened to him?
3. Charles Darnay was accused of treason in an English court. Why? Explain why he was acquitted.
4. What was the Marquis St. Evremonde's reaction when he realized his carriage had killed a child? What was his attitude to the peasants? What was the result of this?
5. Sidney Carton is in love with Lucie Manette, but doesn't ask her to marry him. Why not?
6. Madame Defarge was always knitting. Was this important? Why?
7. Why did the spy, John Barsad, visit the Defarge's wine shop? What news did he bring them?
8. Explain why Dr. Manette kept his shoemaker's tools after his release. Did he ever use them again? Why?
9. What was the first act of the peasants when the Revolution began? Why was this?
10. What was Defarge looking for when he went to 105 North Tower?
11. Why did Charles Darnay return to France, although it would be very dangerous?
12. What happened when Charles returned to France?
13. Dr. Manette's life was spared by the People's Court, but he asked permission to remain in prison? Why?
14. Charles was released after his first trial, but was then arrested again. Why?
15. Explain why Solomon Pross, alias John Barsad, is forced to help Sidney Carton free Charles.

A Tale of Two Cities - True or False Questionnaire

*Read each statement carefully, then mark it **True** or **False**. Be careful!*

1. Dr. Manette had been falsely imprisoned for many years. _____
2. Monsieur Defarge took Mr. Lorry and Lucie to meet Dr. Manette. _____
3. Dr. Manette recognized Lucie, his daughter, immediately. _____
4. Dr. Manette gave evidence at the trial of Charles Darnay in London. _____
5. Charles Darnay and Sidney Carton looked alike. _____
6. The Marquis St Evremonde was a kind and considerate man. _____
7. Charles was the son of the Marquis St. Evremonde. _____
8. Sidney Carton loved Lucie and would do anything for her. _____
9. The Revolutionaries identified each other with the name Jean. _____
10. Madame Defarge worked the names of enemies of the Revolution into her knitting. _____
11. John Barsad told the Defarges of Lucie's marriage to Charles Darnay. _____
12. Dr, Manette returned to his shoemaker's tools when he was upset. _____
13. The Revolutionaries stormed the Bastille prison and released the prisoners. _____
14. Monsieur Defarge found a packet of papers under the floor in cell 105. _____
15. There was no danger for Charles if he returned to France. _____
16. Charles returned to France because he wanted to help an old servant. _____
17. Charles was imprisoned when he returned to France. _____
18. Madame Defarge was sympathetic to Lucie. _____
19. Miss Pross' brother was a French spy. _____
20. Sidney Carton threatened to tell the authorities about Barsad if he didn't help. _____
21. Barsad and Cly had told the truth about Charles when he was tried in England. _____
22. Dr. Manette had been forced to help the Marquis St Evremonde and his brother. _____
23. Charles' father had been kind and considerate to his servants. _____
24. Dr. Manette was imprisoned when he tried to bring the St Evremonde brothers to justice. _____
25. Charles was being condemned for the wrong doing of his father and uncle. _____
26. Madame Defarge wanted to spare Lucie and the child. _____
27. Madame Defarge wanted revenge for the deaths of her brother and sister. _____
28. Sidney tricked Charles, then changed places with him. _____
29. Charles, Lucie and their child escaped from Paris. _____
30. Sidney Carton escaped being guillotined in Charles' place. _____

A TALE OF TWO CITIES - ACTIVITIES

1. On the map of the world, locate and mark the following places:
 - a) France
 - b) England
 - c) London
 - d) Paris
 - e) The English Channel
 - f) Your home country
 - g) The nearest large town or city to where you live
 - h) The location of your home - estimate this if necessary.
2. Use the resources available to you to research the French Revolution.
When did it start and end?
What were its main causes? What happened.
Make a list of the important historical characters involved.
Do you think the violence was justified?
Which side would you have supported? Why?
3. Use the Venn diagram to compare the characters of Charles Darnay and Sidney Carton.
How were they alike? How were they different?
4. This novel uses historical events as a focal point for the novel.
What did you learn about life at this time from reading the novel?
Present your ideas in the form of a list.
5. Create a poster to encourage the French peasants to join the Revolutionaries.
Your poster should be bright and colorful.
Use a sheet of 12" by 18" paper for your poster.
6. Conflict plays an important part in the plot of a novel, and there are three types of conflict:
 - a) Man against Man
 - b) Man against Nature
 - c) Man against SelfCreate a chart to show the types of conflict in this novel.

Extension Activities for Students Requiring Challenging Activities

1. This novel takes place at the end of the Eighteenth Century.
What do you think is the central theme of the novel?
Write an outline for a novel using a similar theme, but set at a different time and in a different place.
Give a list of characters.
The plot outline should include the beginning of the novel, the most important events and the conclusion.
You should also give your outline a title.
2. There was a great deal of bad feeling between the French and the English at this time.
Why was this?
Use the resources available to you to make a list of reasons.
3. Keeping in mind that the author, Charles Dickens was English, do you think the novel gives an unbiased account of the French Revolution.
Justify your answer.
Which side do you think Charles Dickens would have supported? Why?