Tale of Two Cities Vocabulary

Contraband
Epoch
Nondescript
Adjure
Cessation
Expeditiously
Inexorable
Inscrutable
Evince
Admonish
Placid
Book 1, Chapters 5+6 Discussion Questions

Summary
1. What happened with the wine barrel?
2. How does Dickens use metonymy to describe the town of Saint Antoine?
3. What commodities are not available? Which are available in abundance?
4. Who are Madame and Monsieur Defarge?
5. What is Madame Defarge doing constantly?
6. Who is locked upstairs, above the wine shop? Why is the door kept locked?
7. What metaphors does Dickens use to describe “faintness of the voice” of the man upstairs? What other literary device is at use here?
8. Who does the man upstairs initially believe Miss Manette to be?
9. Where do Mr. Lorry and Monsieur Defarge decide to take the man?

Analysis
1. What might the wine foreshadow? Dig deep on this one!
Incommodious
Extemporize
Appellation
Harlequin
Trepidation
Efficacy
Animosity
Depreciate
Foray
Superscribe
Pernicious
Infamy
Immolate
Malign
Timorous
Demeanor
Carrion
Laconic
Allusion
Propensities
Bacchanalian
Glib
Unscrupulous
Precocious
Languish
Staid
Book 2, Chapters 1-3 Discussion Questions

Summary
1. How is Tellson's bank described?
2. Look up Fleet Street and The Temple Bar. What are these places that Dickens is referencing?
3. What is Nature's remedy for things?
4. What does the clerk at Tellson's believe about the law? How does this differ from Jerry's belief?
5. What is the case that Jerry is assigned to? What penalty does it carry?
6. How does Dickens describe Charles Darnay?
7. What is the prosecution's evidence against Darnay, and why are the Manette's called to testify?
8. Who is Mr. Carton, and how does he change the direction of the case?
9. What happens to Miss Manette, and how does Darnay react? What can you infer as a result of this?
10. What is the result of the trial?

Analysis
1. Compare the characters of Darnay and Carton. How are they similar? How are they different?
Summary
1. What is the metaphor used by Dickens to describe the mass of people at the trial, and what are its connotations?
2. To whom does Darnay offer a toast during his dinner with Carton?
3. Why does Carton muse to himself that he must hate Darnay?
4. Describe the relationship between Carton and Stryver.
5. Dickens writes that Carton would never be a good lion, but was a surprisingly good jackal. What does he mean?
6. As Stryver and Carton finish work, Dickens writes of the sun sadly rising. What makes this sunrise sad?
7. Why does Mr. Lorry hold Miss Pross in high regard?
8. What is found in the Tower, hidden from the guards?

Analysis
1. Examine the extended metaphor of the rain at the end of chapter 6. What does it foreshadow, and how?
Book 2, Chapters 7 Jigsaw

The Stoppage at the Fountain, Illustrated by Phiz. Courtesy Phillip Allingham

Person 1
Examine Dickens' use of irony in this chapter. What function does it serve in the novel?

Person 2
Examine the way the Monseigneur is characterized. How does Dickens portray him, and why?

Person 3
Examine the Monseigneur as a symbol/allegory. What does he represent, and how does he help Dickens' point?

Person 4
Examine the Monsieur the Marquis. In what way is he similar to the Monseigneur?

All persons
1. What is the function of this chapter in the novel? What point is Dickens trying to make? (Summarizing the chapter might help make this clearer).
Tale of Two Cities
Vocabulary 3
Book 2, Chapters 7-11

Chaste
Abject
Fawn
Servile
Affable
Propitiate
Obsequious
Remonstrance
Elicit

Regeneration
Despondent
Detest
Conversant
Constraint
Manifest
Obliterate
Morose
Ostentatious

Under the Plane Tree, Illustrated by Phiz. Courtesy Phillip Allingham
Summary
1. What does the chocolate the Monseigneur drinks symbolize?
2. What tragic event takes place in Saint Antoine?
3. What do the Defarges do in the aftermath of the accident?
4. How does Dickens describe the life of the French peasants? How does it compare with his description of the life of the aristocracy?
5. Who is the nephew of the Marquis? How are the two different?
6. What happens to the Marquis at the end of the chapter?

Analysis
1. What is Dickens alluding to by titling chapter 9 *The Gorgon’s Head*? How is this significant?
2. Examine the following passage:

“Expressive sips of what made them poor, were not wanting; the tax for the state, the tax for the church, the tax for the lord, tax local and tax general, were to be paid here and to be paid there, according to solemn inscription in the little village, until the wonder was, that there was any village left unswallowed.”

What is Dickens alluding to here, and how does it help support his point?
Tale of Two Cities
Vocabulary 4
Book 2, Chapters 14-21

Ubiquitous
Altercation
Ostensible
Recompense
Precipitate (v)
Poltroon
Supercilious
Amicable
Assiduous

Antecedents
Palpable
Furtive
Gaunt
Dissolute
Turbid
Inundation
Patronage

The Accomplices, Illustrated by Phiz. Courtesy Phillip Allingham
Summary
1. How much time has passed since Lorry received the message about Dr. Manette?
2. What does Darnay do for a living?
3. What promise does Darnay make to Dr. Manette?
4. What does Dr. Manette do after Darnay leaves?
5. Examine chapter 11. What do we learn about Stryver?
6. What news does Lorry have for Stryver?
7. What does Carton ask of Lucie?
8. What does Carton’s confession reveal about his personality?
9. What does Carton promise Lucie?

Analysis
1. One of the novel’s dominant motifs is that of the double. How does this section of the novel explore this motif, and how does it develop a theme around it?
Book 2, Chapters 14-17 Discussion Questions

These questions are largely stolen from other people

Summary
1. Whose funeral occurs in chapter 14?
2. What do we learn that Jerry Cruncher does for a living?
3. Why do you believe that Jerry beats his wife?
4. What story does the mender of the roads tell?
5. What kind of mood does Jacque Three create?
6. What is decided about "the chateau and all its race?"
7. Who arrives at the wine shop? How does Mme. Defarge feel about him? What news does he bring?
8. How does Dr. Manette feel about Lucie's impending marriage?
9. Where will he live after the wedding?

Analysis
1. What is Dickens' tone towards the crowds? What is the significance of this tone?
2. Examine the irony in Jerry's statement that he is an "honest tradesman."
3. Why do the Defarges encourage people like the road mender to support the King?
4. Examine the internal conflict that Monsieur Defarge is feeling. What is the source of his conflict?
Book 2, Chapters 18-21 Discussion Questions
These questions are largely stolen from other people

Summary
1. What does Darnay tell Dr. Manette on the morning of his wedding? How does it affect the Doctor? Why do unbelievers react this way?
2. Why does Dr. Manette give up his shoemaking tools? Is this a good idea?
3. What does Carton ask of Darnay? Why does he make this request?
4. How many children have Darnay and Lucie had? What tragedy occurs involving one of the children?
5. What events are occurring in France during this chapter?
6. Why has Defarges gone to 105 North Tower? What is he looking for?
7. Describe the actions of Mme. Defarge in chapter 21? What is she doing?

Analysis
1. Why does Lucie believe that her father deserves to be loved?
2. What does the smashing of the forge symbolize?
Summary
1. Who is The Vengence?
2. Why is Foulon so despised?
3. What is the state of France in chapter 22?
4. Why don't any of the villagers try to stop the fire at the chateau?
5. Who is Gabelle, and what happens to him?
6. How many years have passed since the storming of the Bastille?
7. What do the displaced aristocracy of France do in the wake of the revolution?
8. What major decision does Mr. Lorry make?
9. Who writes to Darnay from France? Hat does he want?
10. What is Darnay's "Loadstone Rock?"

Analysis
1. Examine the symbolic import of the incident involving Lucie. What does this tell us about her and about the general atmosphere in the text?
2. Compare and contrast the women of the revolution with Lucie. What does this tell the reader about the role of women in the text?
Tale of Two Cities
Vocabulary 5
Book 3

Doggedly
Blighted
Impassive
Inviolate
Inclement
Jocose
Gregarious
Vindicate
Voluble

Head note Vignette, Illustrated by Phiz. Courtesy Phillip Allingham