

Charles Dickens

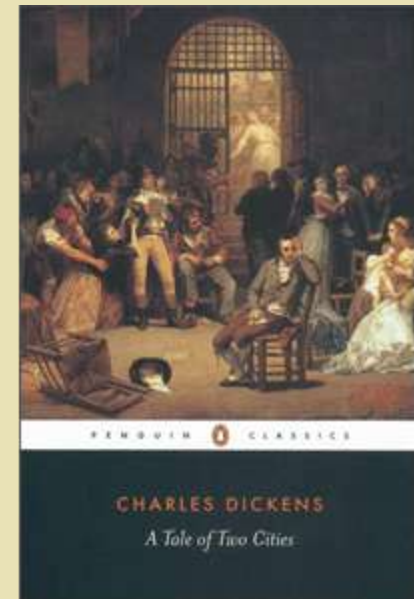
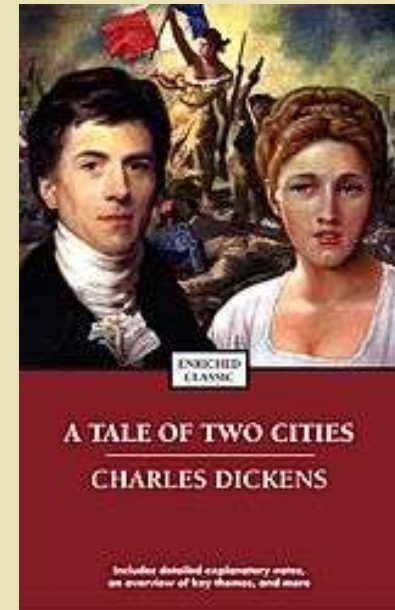
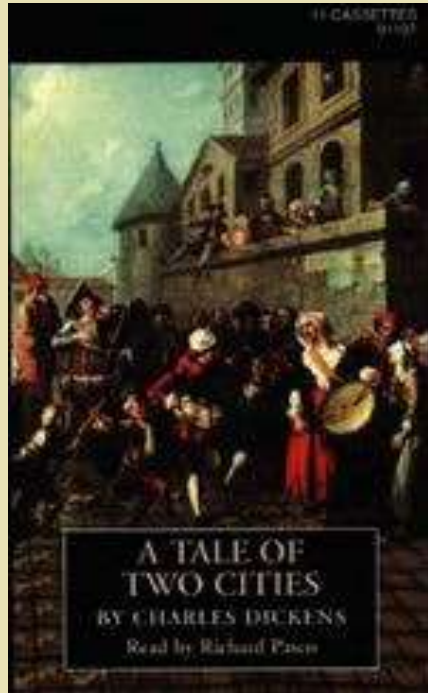
A Tale of Two Cities (1859)



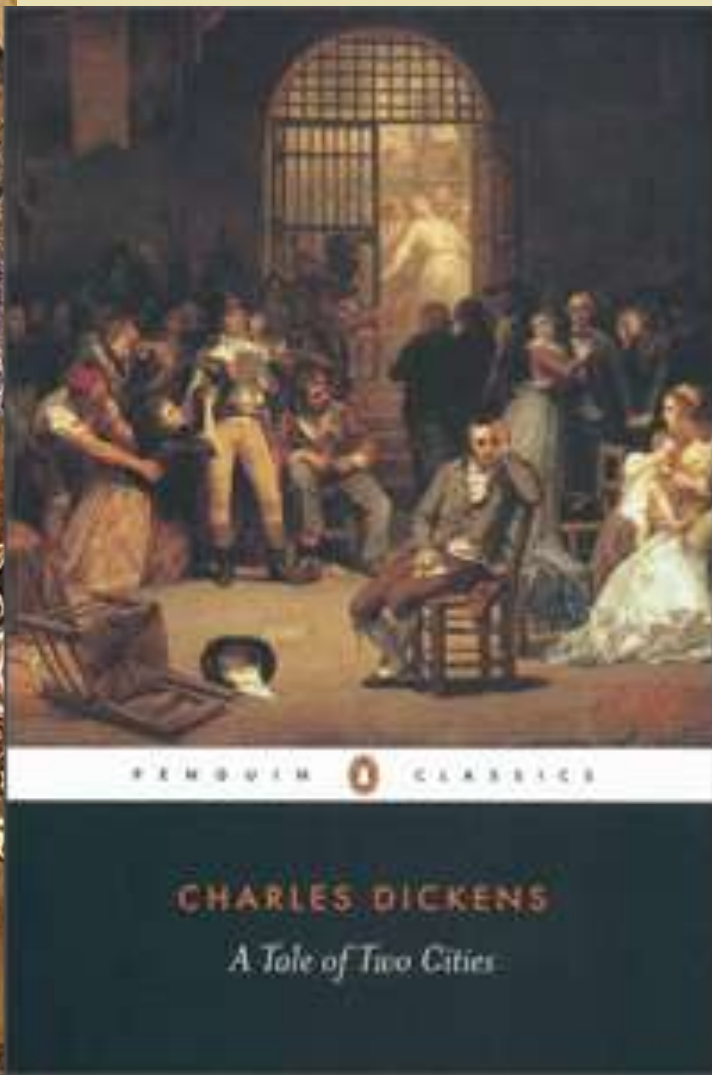
*It was the best of times, it was the worst of times,
it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness...*



This piece of fiction is based on many actual historical events.



The Plot



The action of *A Tale of Two Cities* takes place over a period of about eighteen years, beginning in 1775, and ending in 1793. Some of the story takes place earlier, as told in the flashbacks. It centers around the years leading up to French Revolution and culminates in the Jacobin Reign of Terror.

It tells the story of two men, Charles Darnay and Sydney Carton, who look very alike but are entirely different in character.

Darnay is a romantic descended from French aristocrats, while Carton is a cynical English barrister.

The two are in love with the same woman, Lucie Manette: one will love her from afar and make a courageous sacrifice for her and the other will marry her.




Charles Darnay



Lucie Manette



Sydney Carton



In France after more than seventeen years of unjust imprisonment, Dr. Alexandre Manette (Lucie's father) is released from the infamous Bastille, setting into motion this time spanning story of revenge and resurrection.

Upon his release, Manette is sheltered and cared for by an old servant, Ernest Defarge, the wine vendor and his wife Madame Defarge.



Madame Defarge

The Setting

*London,
England*



*Paris,
France*

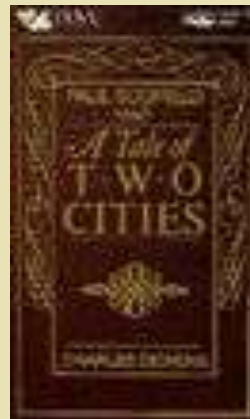




Conflict


In his dual focus on the French Revolution and the individual lives of his characters, Dickens draws many *comparisons* between the historical developments taking place and the characters' triumphs and travails.

*Structure of the Novel &
Literary Devices Used in
A Tale of Two Cities*





- Originally written as a newspaper serial
 - lots of characters and cliffhangers
- Length = 367 pages
- Divided into three books-
 - Book The First: Recalled to Life (6 chapters)
 - Book the Second: The Golden Thread (24 chapters)
 - Book the Third: The Track of a Storm (15 chapters)



Themes are the fundamental and often universal ideas explored in a literary work.

A Tale of Two Cities

Major theme: The possibility of resurrection and transformation, both on a personal level and on a societal level.

Minor topics:

the necessity of sacrifice oppression/exploitation

- honor vs. dishonor violence/greed/hatred
- corruption effects of imprisonment
- mob behavior self-sacrifice
- love hopelessness



Motifs are recurring structures, contrasts, or literary devices that can help to develop and inform the text's major themes.

- **Doubles**

(various characters seemed paired as opposites)

Darnay= capable and accomplished

Carton= lazy and lacks ambition



- **Shadows & Darkness**

Symbols are objects, characters, figures, or colors used to represent abstract ideas or concepts.

- **The Broken Wine Cask** (blood spilling on the streets)

- **Madame Defarge's Knitting** (seemingly harmless, spinning vengeance)

- **The Marquis** (ruthless aristocratic cruelty)





Literary Devices

- ◆ **Anaphora**- Using a repeating word or phrase to begin multiple clauses or sentences.
- ◆ **Allusions**- Indirect references to people or events common to the audience.
- ◆ **Antithesis**- The pairing of opposites.
- ◆ Frequent use of **Similes, Metaphors & Personification.**
- ◆ Complex sentence structures often involving **parallel construction.**



Presented By

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