

A Tale of Two Cities

Charles Dickens

Retold by
Pieter Koster

LEVEL B1.2

© Global ELT LTD 2017

This reprint edition is published in the UK
with permission from Woongjin Compass Co. Ltd.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without prior permission in writing from the publisher.

Series Editor: Ken Methold
Acquisitions Editor: John Thomas
Content Editor: Stephen Taylor
Copy Editor: Lee Johnson
Cover Illustrator: Wendy Berry
Cover/Interior Design: Design Plus

www.globalelt.co.uk

ISBN: 978-1-78164-422-5



Contents

CHAPTER 1 On the Road to Dover	3
CHAPTER 2 Surprising News	7
CHAPTER 3 Miss Manette Meets Her Father.....	11
CHAPTER 4 Five Years Later	16
CHAPTER 5 Echoes of the Future	20
CHAPTER 6 Matters of Life and Death	24
CHAPTER 7 Love Is in the Air	28
CHAPTER 8 Business in England and France	33
CHAPTER 9 Happiness and Fear	38
CHAPTER 10 The Storming of the Bastille	42
CHAPTER 11 A Fire and a Letter	46
CHAPTER 12 This Is Not a Good Place	50
CHAPTER 13 Charles in Prison	54
CHAPTER 14 A Knock on the Door	58
CHAPTER 15 Unexpected Meetings and Discoveries	62
CHAPTER 16 A Secret Story	66
CHAPTER 17 Sydney Carton Takes Action	70
CHAPTER 18 Madame Defarge Versus Miss Pross	75
CHAPTER 19 Twenty two! Twenty three!	79
New Words	83
Playlet	86
Workbook	89

On the Road to Dover

Preview Questions

1. Can you find London, Dover, and Paris on a map of Europe?
2. Today, you can drive from London to Dover in about one hour and fifteen minutes. Why was it more difficult and dangerous in 1775?
3. Who were the Kings of England and France in 1775?

It was the best of times. It was the worst of times. It was the age of wisdom. It was the age of foolishness. It was the season of Light and the season of Darkness. It was a time to hope and a time to **despair**. It was an age of extremes. The rich were very rich, and the poor were very poor.

It was 1775. A man with a large **jaw** sat on the throne of England with his **plain-faced** Queen. Another man with a large jaw sat on the throne of France with his attractive Queen. It seemed that everything would go on as it was. Nothing would ever change. Rich people thought that they would always be rich and do whatever they wanted, while poor people would always be poor.

In England, people were superstitious. They believed in ghosts and spirits and supernatural messages. The American Revolution was just beginning, although nobody understood how important it would be.

In France, the rich people and the church made laws that **oppressed** the poor. A young man had his hands cut off, his tongue pulled out, and was burned alive because he did not kneel down in the mud and rain for some old monks that walked past him. One day, the people of France would stand up and say “Enough!” The trees that would provide the wood for the **guillotine** were already growing quietly in some corner of France, and the carts that would carry the **aristocrats** from prison to their death were already being used on farms near Paris.

England was also a dangerous place to live. Men with guns broke into houses and stole from the rich and poor alike. Others attacked coaches on the road. Criminals were often shot. If they could be brought to a court, they would be hanged. Murderers were hanged, and people who stole handkerchiefs were hanged. Death seemed to be the easiest way to deal with problems. It was believed that if you wanted to stop murderers, you hanged them. If you wanted to stop ... you hanged them.

People also thought that people stole because they were bad ... If you hanged them they wouldn't do it again and other people would see it ...

Rich people didn't understand that other people did not steal because they were bad. They stole because they were hungry. That's how things were towards the end of 1775.

At this **turbulent** time in history, on a Friday night late in November, the London-Dover mail coach was climbing Shooter's Hill in the rain. The coach was drawn by four horses, but they were old and tired, and the load was heavy. The passengers had to get out of the coach and walk in the mud beside the coach. It was very dark, cold, and foggy, and the three passengers on foot stayed close to the coach because they were afraid of being attacked by robbers. They were all wrapped in coats and **scarves** and wore hats to try and keep warm. They did not know each other and were afraid of each other. The coach driver and the guard were afraid of them all and carried guns to fight off any attack. Perhaps one of the passengers was part of a robber gang!

It was after eleven o'clock when they finally reached the top of the hill. The guard put the brakes on the wheels and got ready to go down the hill. He opened the door for the passengers to get back in.

"Joe, what's that?" said the driver in a warning voice.

They both listened carefully in the dark.

"Horse," said Joe at last, "and it's **galloping**, Tom. Get ready!"

They warned the passengers inside the coach to be ready, and then they each took a gun and waited, staring back into the darkness. Soon they could all hear the horse galloping up the hill and everybody was afraid.

5 “Stop!” shouted the guard. “Stop, or I’ll shoot!”

The sound of galloping stopped immediately.

“Is that the Dover Mail?” asked a voice from the fog.

“Never mind what it is! Who are you?”

“If it is the Dover Mail, I want a passenger!”

10 “What passenger?”

“Mr. Jarvis Lorry.”

The guard asked Mr. Lorry to identify himself, and one of the passengers put up his hand.

“What’s the matter? Who wants me? Is it Jerry?”

15 “Yes, Mr. Lorry.”

“What’s the matter?”

“A message from T. and Co.”

“I know this messenger, guard. He may come closer.”

20 The guard warned messenger approach slowly, and he walked closer to the coach, leading his horse. He and his horse were covered in mud. He gave the passenger a piece of paper.

The passenger explained to the guard that he worked for Tellson’s Bank in London.

“May I take the time to read this message?” he asked.

25 The guard nodded, and watched the messenger with his gun in his hand.

“It says, ‘Wait for Ma’amselle at Dover.’ Jerry, you can tell them that my answer is ‘Called back to life!’”

“That’s a strange answer!” exclaimed the surprised messenger.

30 “If you give them that answer, they will know that I received the message,” explained Mr. Lorry.

He climbed back into the coach, and the driver started down the hill towards Dover. Jerry stood for a while and then began to walk back down the other side of the hill with his horse,

going back towards London and thinking his secret thoughts.

“Called back to life! It would be a bad thing for me if that ever happened!” he said to himself.

5 The three passengers in the coach sat silently in the corners and remained strangers to each other. Mr. Lorry sat half asleep in his corner and dreamt that he was digging to get a man out of his grave. This man was about forty five years old, but his face looked much older. It was thin and full of pride and sadness. In his dream Mr. Lorry asked him, “How long have you been
10 buried?” He asked this question a hundred times, but the answer was always the same.

“Almost eighteen years.”

“Did you still hope that somebody would dig you out?”

“I gave up hoping many years ago.”

15 “Do you know that you have been called back to life?”

“Yes, but I don’t know if I want to live.”

“Would you like to see her? Shall I show her to you?”

The answers to these last questions kept changing. Sometimes the reply was “Not yet. It would kill me to see her too soon.”

20 At other times he would cry and say, “Take me to her.”

Then poor, half-asleep Mr. Lorry would begin to dig again in his dream and dig and dig until the rising sun made him wake up.

Mr. Lorry pulled the shade on the window down a bit.
25 Looking out below the window shade, the morning appeared cold and wet. The sky was clear, and the sun rose bright and beautiful.

Mr. Lorry thought to himself, “Eighteen years! Good Lord! To be buried alive for eighteen years!”

Review Questions

1. Does the writer think that killing criminals is the best way to stop crime? Do you agree with him?
2. Why did the coach passengers have to walk beside the coach?
3. Why was the coach driver afraid of the messenger?

Chapter 13

endanger *v.* to put somebody or something in danger

constantly *adv.* all the time; without change

defenceless *adj.* without protection

tribunal *n.* a court

Chapter 14

triumph *n.* a great success

try someone *v.* to put someone on trial

audience *n.* a group of people watching an event

violent *adj.* acting with strong force

unpredictable *adj.* when you cannot guess what somebody is going to do

republic *n.* a country that is not ruled by a king or queen

Chapter 15

official *n.* a person who works for the government

insist *v.* to say something very strongly

confirm *v.* to agree that something is true

deny *v.* to say something is not true

amazement *n.* a state of extreme surprise or wonder

Chapter 16

confess *v.* to admit that you have done something wrong

research *n.* the investigation of a subject in order to discover new facts

bachelor *n.* an unmarried man

embarrassed *adj.* shameful

Chapter 17

intend *v.* to plan to do something

urgent *adj.* requiring immediate attention or action

unconscious *adj.* without awareness, as if in a deep sleep

Chapter 18

mourn *v.* to be sad when somebody dies

determined *adj.* having a strong will to do something

cathedral *n.* a large and important church

waist *n.* the part of the body around the middle of the torso

dreadful *adj.* very bad; awful

Chapter 19

unfortunate *adj.* unlucky

relieved *adj.* no longer worried

prophet *n.* a person who speaks for God or predicts the future



A Tale of Two Cities

Cast

Judge	Prosecutor
Twelve members of the jury	Monsieur Defarge
Madame Defarge	Piquard
Charles	Doctor Manette
Gabelle	Lucie
Little Lucie	Miss Pross
Jerry Cruncher	Mr. Lorry
The Crowd	

The scene takes place in a crowded courtroom. The judge is seated, with a jury of twelve men on one side of the courtroom, and the prisoner Piquard on the other side. The prosecutor is standing in front of the bench. There is also a seat in front for witnesses.

A loud and noisy crowd are also in the courtroom. Doctor Manette, Lucie, Gabelle are sitting in the front row with Monsieur and Madame Defarge. Madame Defarge is knitting.

Judge: Jean Piquard, we have heard the evidence. You are accused of being an aristocrat. Aristocrats have oppressed the poor people of France for many years. The jury will vote, and I hope they find you guilty. Jury, how do you vote?

Juryperson 1: *(raises hand)* Guilty!

Crowd: *(cheer and clap)* Hooray! Another one for the guillotine! Down with the aristocrats! Boo!

Juryperson 2: *(raises hand)* Guilty!

The crowd cheers again. Each member of the jury says, “Guilty!” and each time, the crowd cheers and claps their hands.

Judge: Jean Piquard, you have heard the verdict. You are guilty, and the guillotine will cut off your head tomorrow afternoon. Next!

The crowd cheers and claps.

Judge: Charles Evremonde, called Darnay!

Charles enters the court and looks around calmly.

Crowd: Down with aristocrats! Chop off his head! He’s guilty! Boo!

Judge: Quiet, please, Citizens! We must hear the evidence before we find the prisoner guilty! Prosecutor!

Before You Read

I. How would you have felt if you had been an aristocrat or a peasant during the French Revolution? Work with your classmates and write your ideas below.

If I had been an aristocrat during the French Revolution, I would have felt...	
angry because	_____ _____
scared because	_____ _____
ashamed because	_____ _____

If I had been a peasant during the French Revolution, I would have felt...	
powerful because	_____ _____
scared because	_____ _____
hopeful because	_____ _____

II. Find the chapter titles that match the clues.

1. Very important things

2. A sound at the entrance

3. A good feeling and a scary feeling

4. An untold tale

5. These chapters have a city or country in their titles.

a. _____

b. _____

6. These chapters have two people in their titles.

a. _____

b. _____

7. These chapters have numbers in their titles.

a. _____

b. _____

On the Road to Dover

I. Put the sentences in order from 1 (first) to 5 (last).

- _____ Mr. Lorry dreamed about a man who had been imprisoned for eighteen years.
- _____ A messenger brought a message for Mr. Lorry, who gave a strange reply.
- _____ A coach was carrying passengers who the coachman did not trust.
- _____ The kings and the wealthy people thought they would always be rich and trouble-free.
- _____ It was a time like any other time, with both good and bad things happening.

II. Choose the best answer.

1. What kinds of people got the death penalty?
 - a. Only murderers
 - b. Only thieves and petty criminals
 - c. Only spies
 - d. Murderers, thieves, and petty criminals
2. What was happening at that time?
 - a. There were problems between the rich people and the poor people.
 - b. The rich people and the poor people were helping each other.
 - c. It was the best of times for everyone.
 - d. It was the worst of times for everyone.
3. Why did the messenger ask to speak to Mr. Lorry?
 - a. He had some money for him.
 - b. He had a new coach for him.
 - c. He had a secret message for him.
 - d. He had a gun for him.
4. What did Mr. Lorry dream?
 - a. He dreamed about the coachman in prison.
 - b. He dreamed about a woman who had been imprisoned a long time.
 - c. He dreamed about a man who had been buried for a long time.
 - d. He dreamed about receiving a message from the bank.