

***World Literature for
Christian Homeschoolers***

**Volume 5:
*A Tale of Two Cities***

Answer Key to Review Questions

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Week 23, Day 1 (Book the First, Chapters I-IV)

1. Why do you think the first chapter is titled “The Period”?

The book begins with a description of the unstable period of 1775 in both England and France. England's troubles include troubling religious prophetesses, supposed ghost sightings, trouble from the British colonies in America, and excessive use of capital punishment against accused criminals. France's troubles include increased government spending, violence, and the new guillotine.

2. Explain the tense situation involving the mail coach.

Night robbers have constantly threatened the Dover road, and a mail coach with several passengers and two guards tries to climb a steep hill. The passengers and guards don't trust anyone—even each other—and the coach is stopped by a man on horseback.

3. Who is the man who calls for someone in the mail coach? What does he want?

The man is Jerry Cruncher, an odd-jobs man working for Tellson's Bank in London. He gives the message “Wait for Mam'selle” to passenger Jarvis Lorry, a long-time employee for the bank. Lorry then gives Cruncher this message: “Recalled to life.”

4. What is the message of the opening to Chapter III?

The author wonders about the secrets that every person holds within himself, and how each person is a mystery to another.

5. What dreams or visions does Jarvis Lorry have?

He dreams about Tellson's Bank, but he also imagines he is talking to a ghost, asking him questions, and that he has to dig him out of the grave he has lain in for 18 years. He imagines telling the ghost, “Shall I show her to you?” Sometimes the ghost replies that he couldn't possibly because he might die, and other times he begs to see “her” right then.

6. Describe Jarvis Lorry's age, his looks, and his manner.

He is about 60, dressed in brown, “orderly and methodical,” businesslike (since he has long since been a Tellson's Bank man), and a bachelor.

7. What do we find out from what Jarvis Lorry tells the hotel drawer?

He expects to meet a young lady, and that Tellson's Bank has been in business for more than 150 years in London and Paris, working with clients who go back and forth from one city to the other.

8. Describe Lucy Manette and her meeting with Lorry.

She is about 17, blonde-haired, polite and cultured, an orphan, and anxious to meet Lorry. When he sees her, he is reminded of a small child he held many years ago. Lorry tells Lucy that as a representative of Tellson's, a doctor he had worked with before that was thought dead has been discovered in Paris, alive. (This man is Lucy's father.) He gently breaks the news to her slowly, in pieces, so she won't be shocked, but she is anyway, and

faints. Lucy's attendant (Miss Pross) comes in, shoves Lorry against a wall, berates him for upsetting Lucy, and takes care of her.

Additional Notes:

- The opening lines of *ATOTC* are among the most famous of any work of literature. The opening paragraph immediately sets up a “doubles” motif—two cities, two sets of contrasting possibilities, and so on. The events in this chapter will be recalled in later ways at other points in the book, revealing themselves as “doubles” as well.

Week 23, Day 2 (Book the First, Chapters V-VI; Book the Second, Chapter I)

1. In what city does the chapter “Wine-shop” take place? What does the wine casket scene represent? Describe the common people of France at this time.

It takes place in Paris. The wine casket's falling and breaking, and the townspeople's ravenous acts toward it, represent the poverty and hunger suffered by the people. The people themselves are not only hungry and poor, but angry and close to revolting.

2. What does Gaspard write with his finger? How does Defarge, the wine-shop keeper respond?

He writes the word “blood.” Defarge wipes it off, telling him that now is not the time—but soon it will be.

3. What kind of people are Monsieur Defarge and Madame Defarge?

Monsieur Defarge is about 30, “bull-necked and martial” looking, “implacable” and tough. Madame Defarge is cold, stout, no-nonsense, and constantly knitting.

4. Why are Lucy Manette and Jarvis Lorry at Defarge's wine shop? Describe what happens with the three.

Defarge is holding Doctor Manette, his old master, in a room above the shop, and Lucy and Lorry are there to bring him home. They wind up a long, steep stairway and reach the doctor, who is locked in an attic room.

5. Describe Dr. Manette's appearance and manner. What does he say when he is asked his name? What is the significance of what he carries around his neck? What does the group do for Dr. Manette?

He has a long white beard, is thin and hollow, speaks weakly, and is dressed in rags, bent over a cobbler's bench, making shoes. He answers “One Hundred and Five, North Tower” when asked his name, and he carries a rag around his neck, inside of which are a few strands of golden hair. Dr. Manette is confused at first, believing Lucy is his dead wife, because of her similar hair. Defarge, Lorry, and Lucy immediately get Dr. Manette out of France.

6. What is Tellson's Bank like?

A small, dark, ugly, cramped bank that does a good business keeping precious objects for people who store them there. Those who work there are gray, gloomy, old-looking and acting men.

7. What does the phrase “death was a recipe much in vogue” mean?

Governments of the time favored just executing anyone who was convicted of committing a crime, regardless of how serious.

8. Describe Jerry Cruncher and his relationship to his wife and son. What does young Jerry Cruncher notice about his father at the chapter's end?

He is an odd-job man for Tellson's Bank, and is a cranky, easily upset man. He takes his son to work with him, sitting outside Tellson's waiting for a job, and he yells at and hurls boots at his wife for "praying agin' him," blaming her prayers for making him lose work—which suggests his work is not always honest. Young Jerry notices that his father's hands are always rusty.

Additional Notes:

- "Jacques" is revealed as a name that revolutionaries in France call each other.
- There are several examples of "doubles" already evident in *ATOTC*, but in this section another is revealed: two trips up steep hills (one up the Dover road in the mail coach, and one up the steep stairs to retrieve Dr. Manette).
- Dickens is setting the stage for the French Revolution by painting a picture of the poverty-stricken, enraged French common people.

Week 23, Day 3 (Book the Second, Chapters II-IV)

9. What is the Old Bailey like? Why is Jerry Cruncher there?

It is a gruesome place where people pay to see accused persons convicted and hanged—and drawn and quartered if convicted of treason. It is assumed that all accused persons will be found guilty. Cruncher is there to deliver a message to Jarvis Lorry, who is watching the trial of the young man.

10. Describe the man on trial for treason. Who are the two persons he looks at in the courtroom?

The man on trial is Charles Darnay—about 25, good looking, with good bearing. He looks at a pretty young woman and her father, there for the trial, and reportedly witnesses against him.

11. List some of the ridiculous statements made by the prosecuting attorney to the jury at the beginning of Chapter IV.

That the witness for the prosecution is a saint; that the prosecutor admires and loves him more than his own family for turning in the "traitor" Charles Darnay; that the witness is such a great man that should have a statue erected in his honor; that the note Darnay is supposed to have written is not in his handwriting, but that only shows how clever he was to have written it in someone else's writing.

12. How does the defense attorney expose witnesses John Barsad and Roger Cly?

He gets them to admit that they have between them been in debtor's prison several times, been involved in fights due to gambling, owe money to Darnay, know each other, have stolen items before, and so on.

13. What argument turns the jury in favor of Darnay's innocence? Why do you think Chapter III is titled "Disappointment"?

Sydney Carton, Stryver's assistant attorney, helps Stryver point out that Darnay's identity cannot be positively established, because Darnay bears a striking resemblance to Carton himself. Chapter III is probably titled "Disappointment" because the bloodthirsty spectators don't get to see another execution of a prisoner.

14. What does Dr. Manette do while looking at Darnay after the group gets together after the trial?

He freezes, looking intently at Darnay with suspicion and fear. It is not explained why.

15. Describe the characters of Sydney Carton and Stryver. What does Carton tell Darnay in their talk over dinner? What does Carton tell himself in the mirror?

Carton is sloppy, rude, melancholy, and not at all businesslike like Mr. Lorry. Stryver is a go-getter (hence the name "Stryver"), and heads the law firm, working tirelessly, and a little self-important. Carton tells Darnay he doesn't like him very much, because he knows Lucie was very concerned for him (Darnay) during the trial, and that no one cares for him (Carton). Later Carton tells himself in the mirror that he wishes he could change places with Darnay so Lucie would care for him.

Additional Notes:

- The description of the Old Bailey is Dickens's way of depicting the brutality and excessive hand of the law—executing so many, finding everyone guilty, still employing torture and brutality in executions, and so on. It is also his way of depicting the coldness and animal-like natures of the common people, who pay to see accused persons found guilty and hanged or otherwise punished.
- Jerry Cruncher, the messenger to Jarvis Lorry, is the same man, of course, who gave a message to Lorry at the story's beginning, while Lorry's mail coach was making a treacherous trip down the Dover road.
- Again the "doubles" theme pops up, with Carton's close resemblance to Darnay.
- The off-hand remark Darnay tells Lucie on the boat—that possibly the name of George Washington could be honored more than King George II—of course is humorous to the modern reader, since contrary to the Old Bailey court's ridicule of this idea, it has come to pass!

Week 24, Day 1 (Book the Second, Chapters V-VII)

1. Why are Stryver and Carton nicknamed “The Lion” and “The Jackal”? What does their late-night conversation while working tell the reader?

Stryver has always pushed to get ahead; Carton has not realized his potential. He works around “The Lion” like a “Jackal,” using his skills to put together pieces of cases like a jackal cleans up after the lion has made the kill. In their conversation we learn that Carton has all the abilities that Stryver has, but doesn’t use them to full effect, and he (Carton) feels a little sorry for himself. The conversation also reveals that both men see Lucie as beautiful, but only Stryver admits it.

2. Describe the Manette house on the corner. How is Dr. Manette’s practice?

It is quiet and peaceful, with very few people who stop by or are in the area. Lucie has very economically decorated it so it is charming and comfortable. Because of where the house is situated, many echoes of people walking to and fro are heard, even though they are not necessarily near the house. The doctor does a nice business, earning as much as he wants.

3. Why is Chapter VI titled “Hundreds of People”? What is Miss Pross like?

It’s titled so because Miss Pross uses this phrases to exaggerate the number of people who come in and out of the Manette home. Miss Pross is a slightly wild acting woman with fiery red hair, jealous, and somewhat quick-tempered, but a loyal, unselfish, and devoted attendant of Lucie, and a good cook.

4. Explain Lorry’s concern about Dr. Manette’s shoe bench. What does Miss Pross say about it?

He worries that it is a reminder of his imprisonment. Miss Pross says she believes he is afraid of being sent back to prison, because he doesn’t seem to know or remember why he was there, or he might be suppressing memories of his stay there. She also says that sometimes he walks back and forth in his room in the middle of the night, as if he were back in prison, but he never talks about his time in prison.

5. What incident that Darnay relates seems to upset Dr. Manette?

News that excavators in the Tower found a message: “DIG,” and unearthed ashes of paper and ashes of a leather bag.

6. What does Sydney Carton seem to bring to the gatherings at the Manette home?

He is melancholy and pensive, and adds a touch of solemnity to the proceedings.

7. Describe the scene of the Monseigneur taking his chocolate, and his general lifestyle, along with the lifestyle of the crowd he socializes with.

It requires four attendants to bring him his breakfast hot chocolate, and he lives a lavish lifestyle, with every convenience and expensive taste gratified. Those he socializes with are the aristocracy, living lavishly and wantonly, full of sin and devoid of natural affection (for example, the mothers who do not want to be seen as mothers, because it makes them look “unfashionable” or old).

8. What is the Marquis who leaves the party like? Describe the incident in his carriage.

About 60 years old, haughty, aristocratic, with a treacherous and cruel face. He drives his carriage home recklessly, without regard to the common people in the streets, killing a small child. He is simply annoyed that his horses might have been injured, instead of caring for the child, and throws a few gold coins to the father of the child (Gaspard, whom we met at Defarge's wine shop earlier) and Defarge, who comes out to help. But Defarge flings the coins back at the Marquis, and Madame Defarge stares steadily at the Marquis, knitting the whole time.

Additional Notes:

- More “doubles” in this section: Carton is up, then he’s down; Stryver and Carton are two men with different personalities; Dr. Manette’s home is like a second prison to him sometimes.
- The luxury and pomp that describe the aristocracy makes the poverty-stricken commoners in France look even worse. This section, along with the wine casket scene, seems designed by Dickens to make the reader sympathize with the commoners and loathe the aristocracy. The scene with the Marquis seems particularly galling and infuriating.

Week 24, Day 2 (Book the Second, Chapters VIII-IX)

1. What does the road-mender tell the Marquis?

That he saw a man holding on to the bottom of his carriage.

2. How does the Marquis respond to the woman asking for help to give her husband a tombstone?

With characteristic coldness, he simply drives away and ignores her.

3. How are Charles Darnay and the Marquis related? Sum up their conversation.

The Marquis is Darnay's uncle, the twin brother of his father. Darnay has come to tell his uncle that he renounces his name and title and wealth. The Marquis is disdainful of his nephew, all but admits that he was responsible for getting him put on trial for treason, and threatens him by mentioning Lucie Manette and Dr. Manette.

4. What is ironic about the Marquis' words when he says, “My friend, I will die, perpetuating the system under which I have lived”?

He does that very night!

Additional Notes:

- More “doubles” in this section: two fountains (one in the poor section of Paris, one in the courtyard of the Marquis); the opposite philosophies of Darnay and the Marquis; and the death of a peasant at the hands of the Marquis, which is “doubled” by his death at the hands of a peasant (the child’s father).
- The setting sun at the beginning of Chapter VIII is a symbol of the aristocracy, and even the Marquis himself. It is seen going down, and Dickens says “the sun and the Marquis [were] going down together.” The

Marquis even says himself about the sun: “It will die out directly.” And, of course, the Marquis does die that night.

- There are a number of “stone faces” at the chateau of the Marquis; these are representative of the hard hearts of aristocrats like him, who is himself described as having a face like a “fine mask.”

Week 24, Day 3 (Book the Second, Chapters X-XII)

1. What are the “two promises” of Chapter X? To what condition does Dr. Manette relapse into? What do you make of this?

Dr. Manette promises to tell Lucie that Darnay loves her and will vouch for his earnestness, and Darnay promises he will tell Dr. Manette his true name on the day of their wedding, if they marry. After their conversation, Lucie finds him again working on his cobbler’s bench, apparently having lost his wits. Something about Darnay strikes Manette, perhaps unconsciously, the wrong way, and brings up memories of being in prison.

2. What does Stryver tell Carton about his marriage plans? What does he advise Carton to do?

He tells Carton he is going to marry Lucie Manette, and he advises Carton to find some rich girl with property and marry her, so she can take care of him.

3. Sum up Stryver’s conversation with Jarvis Lorry.

He tells Lorry he intends to marry Lucie, and Lorry advises against Stryver’s asking her. When asked why, Lorry says he believes Lucie will reject his proposal. Stryver is stunned, because he is a successful lawyer, and a prime catch, he believes. Lorry asks Stryver to wait until he (Lorry) finds out from the family what Lucie thinks, he finds that Lucie will reject Stryver’s proposal, and Stryver tries to save face by pretending he never wanted to ask Lucie, partly because he thinks she is just an empty-headed young lady who doesn’t know a good opportunity.

Additional Notes:

- More “doubles” in this section: Dr. Manette and Charles Darnay both (a) love Lucie, and (b) are refugees from France; Stryver and Darnay both propose marriage to Lucie;

Week 24, Day 4 (Book the Second, Chapters XIII-XIV)

1. Sum up Carton’s speech to Lucie.

He says that he is hopelessly beyond repair as a human, and that he still would like to make something of himself if possible. He promises Lucie that he will do anything for her, include giving up his life for her.

2. Describe the funeral that Jerry Cruncher sees pass by. What does he say to himself about the man the funeral is for?

It is being followed by a strange mob, who attacks the coffin and the mourners in the procession because the man being buried is Roger Cly, whose name Cruncher recognizes as the man he saw in the courtroom testifying

against Charles Darnay. Jerry says to himself, looking at the body, “You see that there Cly that day, and you see with your own eyes that he was a young ‘un and a straight made ‘un.”

3. How does Cruncher harass his wife in Chapter XIV? Where does he go next?

He yells at her not to interfere with his business by her “flopping against him” (praying). That night at 1 AM he goes to a graveyard with two other men to dig up Roger Cly’s body to sell to a scientist or a doctor.

4. Describe young Jerry’s experience. What does he ask his father the next day?

He pretends to be asleep and follows his father to the graveyard. When he sees the men dig up the body, he panics and runs away, then turns around, then runs away all the way home, all the while imagining that the body is hopping after him. He asks his father what a “resurrection man” is, and his father answers, “a branch of scientific goods,” to which young Jerry says, “persons’ bodies, ain’t it, father?”

Additional Notes:

- More “doubles” in this section: Carton pledging his life to Lucie, like Darnay has; the digging up of a body” by Jerry Cruncher reflects the “recalled to life” “digging up” of Dr. Manette from the prison.

Week 25, Day 1 (Book the Second, Chapters XV-XVII)

1. What does the road mender report has happened to Gaspard, who killed the Marquis? How does Madame Defarge signal to the other patrons of the wine shop that they should leave?

He was caught, sent to prison, and hanged in the village of the Marquis, even though petitions were made to save him. Madame Defarge puts a rose in her hair to signal everyone in the wine shop to leave.

2. What is contained in Madame Defarge's knitting? Why is it done in this manner?

Madame Defarge's knitting contains codes of all the names of persons that the revolutionaries want to exterminate. It is done in code, so no one will be able to tell what she is doing.

3. Why does the mender of roads so loudly praise the king and queen during their appearance?

The revolutionaries are trying to make the king and queen feel secure in their positions, so that the planned revolution will be more of a surprise, and ideally, more likely to be effective.

4. Who is John Barsad? Describe his visit to the Defarges' wine shop and the news he brings to them.

He is the spy who testified falsely against Charles Darnay during his trial for treason. During his visit to the Defarges' wine shop, Madame Defarge knits his name into the register as a person to kill, while Barsad pretends to be a revolutionary sympathizer, calling Defarge "Jacques" and so on. Barsad does bring news that unsettles the Defarges: that the nephew of the Marquis plans to marry the daughter of Dr. Manette, Ernest Defarge's old employer. Madame Defarge then adds Darnay's name to her knitting.

5. What do Lucie and Dr. Manette discuss in "One Night"?

Dr. Manette discusses his imprisonment for the first time, and seems at peace about it. Lucie tries to make sure that her father approves of her marriage, and he assures her he does, telling her that he often wondered about how she was turning out while he was in prison.

Additional Notes:

- The poisoning of the water in the village from Gaspard's hanging represents the poisoning of the minds and hearts of the commoners, who are angered at the aristocracy's treatment of them.
- Another double: the opening of the second paragraph in Chapter 16: "Chateau and hut, stone face and dangling figure, the red stain on the stone floor, and the pure water in the village well."
- It seems grossly unfair to add Darnay's name to the list of aristocrats to be killed by the revolutionaries, since he has renounced everything associated with his family or title.

Week 25, Day 2 (Book the Second, Chapters XVIII-XIX)

1. What does Dr. Manette look like when coming from his meeting with Charles Darnay before the wedding? What do you make of this?

He is “deadly pale,” something obviously troubling him. (Recall that Darnay promises to reveal his real name to Dr. Manette on the wedding day.)

2. In what state do Lorry and Miss Pross find the doctor? How long does it last?

He has reverted to his semi-conscious state of believing he is still a prisoner in the North Tower. This mental state lasts nine days.

3. What method does Lorry use to approach Dr. Manette after he “awakens” from his relapse?

He approaches the doctor as if he were talking about a friend of his who had a relapse, and is more discreetly and indirectly able to approach the subject.

4. What “opinion” does Dr. Manette give about what should be done about Lorry’s “friend”? What do they decide to do?

Dr. Manette thinks this was an aberration, brought on by a shock to the “patient.” He does not believe the relapse will happen again. They decide to get rid of the “patient’s” tools, so he cannot revert back to using them. Lorry and Miss Pross then hack the bench to pieces, and bury it with the tools in the yard.

Additional Notes:

- Double: The young married couple, Charles Darnay and Lucie Manette, contrast strongly to the “old bachelor couple” of Jarvis Lorry and Miss Pross.

Week 25, Day 3 (Book the Second, Chapters XX-XXII)

1. What is Sydney Carton’s “plea”? How do the Darnay family members receive him?

His plea is to be allowed to come and go and be part of their lives. Darnay willingly agrees, Lucie pities him and wants to help him, and little Lucie loves him as part of the family.

2. What are the echoing footsteps that Lucie hears from her home now link to? What news does Lorry bring from Tellson’s Bank?

The echoing footsteps are linked to the turmoil of the French Revolution. Lorry reveals that many are fleeing France and storing their precious goods with Tellson’s in England as they leave.

3. Describe the scene with the mob of peasants at the Bastille. How do the Defarges play roles?

The peasants storm the Bastille (this is the act that officially began the French Revolution) and overthrow it. They release the prisoners, and Defarge demands to be taken to the North Tower, where he finds evidence that Dr. Manette was in the tower. Madame Defarge gladly participates in the killing, even cutting off the head of the governor of the Bastille.

4. What does the mob do to Foulon? Why?

Foulon said for the peasants to eat grass if they were starving, so the mob chases him down, tortures him, and kills him, stuffing his decapitated head with grass and parading it around.

Additional Notes:

- Another double: the seven heads on pikes at the Bastille (the murdered government employees), and the seven prisoners released from the Bastille.
- The sentence “There was a change in the appearance of Saint Antoine; the image had been hammering into this for hundreds of years, and the last finishing blows had told mightily on the expression” expresses the attitude of the peasants, who believe they have been mistreated by the aristocracy for a long time, and now have revolted.

Week 25, Day 4 (Book the Second, Chapters XXIII & XXIV)

1. What does the French countryside look like? What do you think this represents?

It is ruined, lifeless, dismal; it most likely represents the author's view that the revolutionaries are not effecting positive change at all, but ruining France in their own way.

2. What happens to the chateau of the Marquis and Gabelle?

The revolutionaries burn it to the ground, which was a common occurrence throughout France at the time. Gabelle barely escapes with his life, and it is unfortunate that the people attack him as well, since he tried to be lenient toward them.

3. What has happened over the last three years? How does Jarvis Lorry fit in?

France has become even more unstable, as people scramble to move themselves and their assets to England. Lorry has been dispatched to France by Tellson's Bank to its branch in Paris to help protect its assets from the revolutionaries.

4. Describe the letter Darnay reads and his decision.

It is a letter from Gabelle asking for help, as he has been locked in prison. Darnay decides to go to Gabelle to help him, thinking that since he renounced his aristocratic family, he will be welcome in France, and might even be able to sway the revolution in a more beneficial path.

Additional Notes:

- The connection between blood and wine has been established: Early in the book the people bathed their hands and rank ravenously of the wine spilled; now they are drunk on the blood of the aristocracy.

Week 26, Day 2 (Book the Third, Chapters I-III)

1. What does Darnay's travels through France, even before he is arrested, show about the country and the revolution? What is the excuse given to him when he demands his rights?

He is constantly asked for papers and generally harassed. This demonstrates the lack of respect for individual rights by the revolutionaries, or drunkenness with power over others. The revolutionaries claim that "emigrants have no rights."

2. Describe Darnay's interaction with Defarge and his imprisonment.

He asks Defarge for his rights and why he is being imprisoned, but Defarge refuses to help. Darnay is then locked up "in secret" (in solitary confinement) in La Force. He asks to buy pen and paper and ink so he can write to Jarvis Lorry at Tellson's Bank.

3. What surprises Jarvis Lorry? How is Dr. Manette's position useful in helping Charles Darnay? Why is time of the essence?

Lorry is surprised to see Lucie and Dr. Manette at Tellson's Bank to see him. Dr. Manette believes his position as a former political prisoner of the aristocrats will help him in convincing the revolutionaries to release Darnay. It is important to get to the prison quickly, since the prisoners are being murdered by revolutionaries, who are described as bloody persons in Chapter II.

4. What good does Jarvis Lorry do for Lucie, Little Lucie, and Miss Pross? What mistake does he make? (That is, what is the real reason for the Defarges' visit?)

Lorry gets them an out-of-the-way apartment so they can stay near Darnay, but his mistake is showing the Defarges where they live. The real reason they come is so they know where the family is—Madame Defarge knits their names into her register of aristocratic families to kill.)

5. Why do you think Chapter III is titled "The Shadow"?

Madame Defarge's shadow—which represents the dangers of the revolutionaries—falls over the Darnay family, threatening them with destruction.

Additional Notes:

- Double: Darnay is a political prisoner, like Dr. Manette was years ago.

Week 26, Day 3 (Book the Third, Chapters IV-VI)

1. How has Dr. Manette become the "Calm in Storm"?

He has taken charge of the situation, serving as a physician, using his influence as having been a political prisoner of the aristocracy to the end of trying to save Charles Darnay, who has been in prison for 15 months. He is also a calming influence on the bloody, impulsive acts of the revolutionaries.

2. How does Dickens describe the terror of the guillotine? What does this say about the revolution itself?

He discusses how it is indiscriminately and eagerly used by the revolutionaries, revealing that the revolution is not simply a redress of wrongs, but a campaign of violence and vengeance (even the nickname of one of Madame Defarge's friends is "The Vengeance").

3. How is Lucie able to somewhat make contact with Charles? What does the wood-sawyer say to her? Who else walks by and sees her at her post?

She stands outside at a spot where he can see her from his prison cell and waves. The wood-sawyer is the mender of roads who appeared earlier in the novel; he is a real weirdo, making jokes about using a guillotine on a family right in front of Lucie and little Lucie. Madame Defarge also walks by one day and sees Lucie weeping for Charles while sitting in her spot.

4. What is the "triumph" of Chapter VI?

Charles Darnay is found not guilty, because of the testimony of Dr. Manette, who has much credibility, as he was a prisoner in the Bastille at the hands of the aristocracy.

Additional Notes:

- Double: Dr. Manette was weakened and cared for by his daughter at the book's beginning, and now she is weakened, and being cared for by him.
- The guillotine is contrasted with the cross of Jesus in Chapter IV. Whereas Jesus on the cross spilled His blood to save mankind and forgive sins, the blood spilled by the guillotine is in vengeance and a profane and godless retribution for others' sins.
- Doubles: Charles Darnay has a second trial, he is found not guilty for a second time, another bloodthirsty crowd attends the trial, and another frightening mob procession passes by on the streets (the first was the mob's attack on funeral procession while Jerry Cruncher looked on)

Week 26, Day 4 (Book the Third, Chapters VII-VIII)

1. What is the explanation of why Charles Darnay is again arrested?

The soldiers say that he has been accused by Ernest Defarge, Madame Defarge, and one other person, whom they will not reveal yet, saying his identity will be revealed the next day.

2. What is discovered about Solomon Pross? Explain the deal that Sydney Carton makes with him. How does Jerry Cruncher prove to be useful?

He is actually John Barsad, who was one of the witnesses against Charles Darnay at his trial in England. Carton says he will expose him as an English spy unless he accompanies him, and asks if Barsad has keys to the prison cells (which he does). At first Barsad balks, but Carton says he has seen him talking with Roger Cly, an English spy. Barsad denies this, saying Cly is dead (and producing his death certificate), but Jerry Cruncher disputes this, saying that Cly was not buried in the coffin that supposedly held him. Barsad is shocked, bewildered at how Cruncher knows this (but the reader knows that Cruncher tried to dig him up when he worked as a "resurrection man" earlier in the story).

Additional Notes:

- A number of plot threads that were left hanging earlier are beginning to be tied together, including Jerry Cruncher's "resurrection man" jobs, and Sydney Carton, who disappeared from the story for a while.
- Sydney Carton seems like he is undergoing a transformation, much like Dr. Manette: Both men have difficult pasts, but each has emerged as a strong, confident man taking on trying challenges.
- The "echoing footsteps" that surrounded the Darnays home in England have proved to be treacherous ones in this section, bringing the revolutionaries who demand Darnay's re-arrest.

Week 27, Day 1 (Book the Third, Chapters IX-X)

1. What is the gist of the conversation between Jarvis Lorry and Jerry Cruncher, and the conversation between Lorry and Sydney Carton?

Lorry is disgusted at Cruncher's grave robbing, and Cruncher promises to stop and become a grave digger to make up for it, if Tellson's Bank will hire his son to take his place doing odd jobs. Carton's conversation with Lorry centers on the idea that a person who is loved by others has not wasted his life.

2. What does Sydney Carton do that night after talking with Lorry?

He wanders the streets, thinking about the words the preacher spoke at his father's funeral: "I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me, shall never die." He helps a little girl cross the street and gives her a kiss (presumably thinking about little Lucie), and buys chemicals at a druggist's shop.

3. What shock occurs at the new Darnay trial?

The third accuser is named: Dr. Manette!

4. What is the substance of the letter Dr. Manette wrote in prison? What effect does it have on the jury? Which words in the letter probably have the greatest effect upon them?

He was summoned to the home of the Marquis de Evremonde to help a young woman who had been ravaged by the Marquis, and her younger brother, who had been stabbed trying to defend her honor. The wife of the Marquis comes to the doctor, trying to atone for her husband's actions, and offers to hide the younger sister of the young woman attacked by him. Dr. Manette, after writing a letter to inform the law of what happened, was kidnapped, the letter burned, and sent to prison.

The jury immediately decides to sentence Charles Darnay to death within 24 hours. The sentence that probably most leads the jury to sentence him to death are these: "I, Alexandre Manette, unhappy prisoner, do this last night of the year 1767, in my unbearable agony, denounce to the times when all these things shall be answered for. I denounce them to Heaven and to earth."

Week 27, Day 2 (Book the Third, Chapters XI-XII)

1. Why does Lucie tell Darnay, "We shall not be separated long"?

She believes she will die of a broken heart.

2. How does Dr. Manette react to what has happened to Darnay?

He is beyond consolation, and eventually reverts to his "I'm a shoemaker" mental state, which puts even more of a gloomy air to the events of the day.

3. What two main things does Carton learn about Madame Defarge while in their wine shop? Why does she look at him strangely?

First, that she was the sister of the wife assaulted by the Marquis de Evremonde, so she has a personal hatred for Charles Darnay, because he is his nephew. Second, that she plans on accusing Lucie and having her and little Lucie “exterminated” as members of the Evremonde family. Madame Defarge looks at Carton strangely because he reminds her of Darnay.

4. What does Carton tell Lorry to do?

He gives him traveling visas for Lucie, little Lucie, and Dr. Manette to leave the country. He tells Lorry that they must leave tomorrow, before Madame Defarge accuses the family.

Additional Notes:

- Double: Lucie faints after she realizes Charles will be executed; earlier in the story, she fainted when she realized her father was alive.
- It seems absurdly unreasonable for Madame Defarge to exact such vengeance upon the Darnay family, especially after Dr. Manette tried to report the brothers to the police for what they did to Madame Defarge’s sister and brother.

Week 27, Day 3 (Book the Third, Chapters XIII-XIV)

1. Explain Carton’s deed done in Darnay’s prison cell.

He sacrifices himself, switching places with Darnay, overpowering him with the drugs he purchased at the chemist’s shop, changing clothes with him, and telling the jailer that “his friend Carton” fainted and must be taken away.

2. What do Miss Pross and Jerry Cruncher discuss? What humor does Dickens include here?

They are anxious about their escape; they plan to leave separately, so they won’t attract suspicion. Miss Pross cries even though she is a tough old bird, and Jerry swears that (a) he will never dig up bodies again, and (b) he will “never no more will I interfere with Mrs. Cruncher’s flopping, never no more!”

3. What are Madame Defarge’s plans? Why does she not take her husband into her confidence?

She plans to arrange for Lucie, little Lucie, and Dr. Manette to be executed. She does not tell her husband her plans, because he is still loyal to Dr. Manette, his old boss.

4. Describe the conflict between Madame Defarge and Miss Pross.

They fight after Miss Pross refuses to allow Madame Defarge to know whether the Darnays have left, and Madame Defarge accidentally shoots herself to death. Miss Pross is deafened permanently by the explosion of the gun.

Additional Notes:

- Doubles: Miss Pross against Madame Defarge; Lorry’s dangerous coach trip in Paris, which is similar to his coach trip in Dover at the beginning of the book.

- The fact that so many people from different stations in life are scheduled to be executed by guillotine (represented by the 70-year-old Farmer-General and the 20-year-old poor seamstress) is a commentary on how evil in a nation hurts people of all stripes of life.
- Madame Defarge's accidental shooting of herself in her struggle with Miss Pross (an attempt to avenge herself upon those whom she blamed for her injustice) could represent the ultimate failure of the French Revolution to effect lasting change because its waves of violence ended up hurting the revolutionary cause more than helping it.

Week 27, Day 4 (Book the Third, Chapter XV)

1. How is Sydney Carton portrayed as going to his death?

Peaceful, even prophetic is the look on his face.

2. List some of the things that the narrator imagines Carton is thinking before his death.

The Darnays with a boy named after himself, Manette happy and healthy, Lorry living 10 more years, contributing to the family and going to his reward. Most importantly, he sees his name honored in the family forever, with generations remembering his sacrifice for them.

A Tale of Two Cities: **For Additional Thought/Essay Topics**

1. Describe the relationship between blood and wine in *A Tale of Two Cities*, and provide examples. How is the blood theme sometimes a reference to the sacrifice of Jesus, and in other ways a contrast to it?

Blood and wine, two red liquids, are frequently referenced in A Tale of Two Cities:

- *The wine casket spills its contents and is lapped up by the commoners; later the commoners spill the blood of thousands of the members of the aristocracy. Dickens says that the spilled wine casket “stained the ground of the narrow street” and “stained many hands, too, and many faces.” The victims of the revolutionaries are called “all red wine for La Guillotine.”*
- *During the wine casket scene the mender of the roads writes the word “BLOOD” on a wall; Dickens says that “the time was to come, when that wine too [blood] would be spilled on the street-stones, and when the stain of it would be red upon many there.” Later on during the revolution, men and women are both described as stained with blood in their lust to kill.*
- *The Defarges own a wine shop, where they dispense wine, and later they “dispense” of plenty of the blood of the aristocracy.*
- *Sydney Carton’s association is interestingly different: He is at first a habitual drunk, but unlike the revolutionaries, his character is twice associated with the prevention of loss of life, first by helping Charles Darnay escape a death sentence, and second, of course, by sacrificing himself for him.*

Carton’s sacrifice of his blood does call to mind the sacrifice of Jesus, who gave His life for mankind’s sins. The blood that is spilled during the French Revolution by the revolutionaries, the killings done by the aristocracy, and the executions at the Old Bailey provide a sharp contrast, since they are often done for revenge.

2. There are several instances of mobs in *A Tale of Two Cities*. Give some examples, and describe what you believe is Dickens’s opinion of them.

Some examples:

- *the mob that chases the funeral procession of Roger Cly*
- *the mob that cheers the quick convictions and hangings of the accused in the Old Bailey Courthouse*
- *the mob that does the same thing during the French Revolution*
- *the crowd that performs the violent, frightening Carmagnole dance*

Dickens seems to take a dim view on the rationality and effectiveness of mobs, since practically every time they assemble, something dangerous or unjust happens, or at least is not prevented from happening by the group.

3. The leaders of the French Revolution promised its citizens freedom and prosperity with the elimination of the aristocracy. Give some examples in *A Tale of Two Cities* that show that in many ways, the new regime was just as bad, or worse.

- *Citizens have to paint their names above their places of residence.*
- *Simply being accused of a crime is enough in most cases to assure guilt.*
- *People are suspicious of one another and quick to turn each other in for supposed “crimes.”*
- *The revolutionaries didn’t help the people produce more bread, clothes, shelters, etc.*
- *Those who are put into position of power (like the Defarges) are just as likely to abuse their power.*

4. Many characters in *A Tale of Two Cities* are prisoners in one way or another. List as many as you can think of, and explain why each is a prisoner.
- *Dr. Manette is imprisoned for 17 years in the Bastille.*
 - *Sydney Carton is “imprisoned” by his own outlook on life, unable to make anything of himself.*
 - *Gabelle is imprisoned by the French revolutionaries.*
 - *Darnay is “imprisoned” by his family’s background, first figuratively and then literally.*
 - *Jarvis Lorry is a semi-prisoner to Tellson’s Bank, living his entire adulthood as an employee.*
 - *John Barsad served time in a debtors’ prison.*
5. Sydney Carton and Charles Darnay look very much alike, which allows the climax of *A Tale of Two Cities* to occur. In what other ways are they alike, aside from their looks?
- *They both love Lucie Manette; they also both make a pledge to her (Darnay with his wedding vows, and Carton with his promise to do anything for her).*
 - *They both have strong and weak moments (Darnay stands up to his uncle, but is ineffective with the revolutionaries at the end; Carton is weak in ambition at first, but becomes strong).*
 - *They both go to France to save someone who is unjustly imprisoned.*
 - *Both make sacrifices for Lucie (Darnay his aristocratic lifestyle, Carton his life).*
6. How are the “resurrection” and “sacrifice” themes intertwined and played out in *A Tale of Two Cities*?

Resurrection is a theme mentioned a number of ways in A Tale of Two Cities:

- *Dr. Manette is recalled to life, or “resurrected” at the story’s beginning.*
- *Jerry Cruncher is known as a “resurrection man,” or someone who digs up dead bodies.*
- *The French peasants are “resurrected”—from figurative and actual death by their hardships and treatment under the aristocracy—into a vengeance against it.*
- *Sydney Carton repeats the words of Jesus, “I am the resurrection and the life,” several times when he is considering trading places with Charles Darnay.*

Sacrifice also plays an important part of A Tale of Two Cities:

- *Miss Pross gives her life as a life of service to Lucie.*
- *Charles Darnay sacrifices his comforts as a member of the aristocracy for his beliefs.*
- *Jarvis Lorry spends his life serving Tellson’s Bank.*
- *Madame Defarge’s brother sacrifices his life trying to help his sister.*
- *Dr. Manette sacrifices (possibly) his good standing with the revolutionaries trying to save Charles.*
- *Of course, Sydney Carton sacrifices his actual life for the Darnay family.*

The themes of sacrifice and resurrection intertwine in examples like these:

- *Lucie sacrifices her time and energies to restore her father, to “resurrect” him from the mental instability he is suffering from because of his prison time.*
- *Sydney Carton’s ultimate sacrifice ends with (in his imagination) his own “resurrection,” not only in death, but in his good name, with the forever remembrance of it by the Darnays, and the naming of their son after him.*