

***A Tale of Two Cities* - Book 3, Chapters 3-5: Connecting the Novel to History**

One of the most impressive feats Charles Dickens accomplishes in his novel is his utilization of the French Revolution's history as a part of the narrative. We see the French Revolution become central to the story as our main characters return to Paris. Today you'll work individually to answer the following questions. The answers will help you to uncover some key elements of the history and to explore how they impact your understanding of the novel. You'll submit your work to Schoology when you are finished.

I. THE SEPTEMBER MASSACRES

1. Go to [this article](#) from Wikipedia and read about this event (read at least the header; read other sections if you need to understand further). Then, take a look at the footnotes on pages 290 (#10), 299 (#4), and 300 (#5)
2. List two key details from this article and/or the footnotes here:
 - a. Detail #1:

 - b. Detail #2:
3. Re-read the following passages from *A Tale of Two Cities*:
 - a. "The grindstone had a double handle...but let it not be a minute later!" (299-300).
 - b. "Doctor Manette did not return...or (in a few cases) to be sent back to their cells" (309).
4. These passages reference the events from this moment of the French Revolution. List two details that make that connection:
 - a. Detail #1:

 - b. Detail #2:
5. **How do these historical facts help you understand what you see happening in the novel?**
Be specific. Explain the impact that this has on the plot and characters. Write 3-4 sentences using at least one short quotation to explore your ideas.

II. THE EXECUTIONS OF LOUIS XVI AND MARIE ANTOINETTE

1. Go to [this article](#) from the website “Eyewitness to History.” Read an account of the execution of King Louis XVI. Then, take a look at the footnote on pp. 312-313 (#1).
2. List two key details from this article and the footnotes here:
 - a. Detail #1:
 - b. Detail #2:
3. Re-read the following passages from *A Tale of Two Cities*:
 - a. “The few words that he caught from the man’s lips...completely isolated him” (289).
 - b. “But, though the Doctor tried hard...with the windows of Heaven shut, not opened!” (312).
 - c. “There was no pause, no pity, no peace...to turn it grey” (313).
4. These passages reference the events from this moment of the French Revolution. List two details that make that connection:
 - a. Detail #1:
 - b. Detail #2:
5. **How do these historical facts help you understand what you see happening in the novel?**
Be specific. Explain the impact that this has on the plot and characters. Write 3-4 sentences using at least one short quotation to explore your ideas.

III. THE GUILLOTINE / THE REIGN OF TERROR

1. Watch [this video](#) from the History Channel series on the French Revolution. Be warned: there is a lot of blood in it (not spilled wine in the streets!).
2. List two key details from this video regarding the Reign of Terror here:
 - a. Detail #1:
 - b. Detail #2:
3. Re-read the following passages from *A Tale of Two Cities*:
 - a. "Above all, one hideous figure grew as familiar...where the Cross was denied" (313-314).
 - b. "Among these terrors...were a Spirit moving among mortals" (314-315).
4. These passages reference the events from this moment of the French Revolution. List two details that make that connection:
 - a. Detail #1:
 - b. Detail #2:
5. **How do these historical facts help you understand what you see happening in the novel?**
Be specific. Explain the impact that this has on the plot and characters. Write 3-4 sentences using at least one quotation and analysis to explore your ideas.

IV. A Multi-Genre response

- 1. We have been using a range of creative formats to respond to and help us to process the events and ideas of the novel. For today, there is a new one - a short poem using a format called the “Golden Shovel.” (If you want to read more about it, [here is a recent article about it and its origins.](#))
- 2. Select a sentence from our work today - a quotation from the novel of at least 7 words.
- 3. Use the chart below - adding rows as necessary - to insert your quotation. The words of the quotation go into the right-hand column - they will become the last words of each line of a new poem you will write. Each line should end with the next word from the quotation, but as you can see in the example, sometimes you can use two or three.
- 4. Be sure to list the page number of the quotation at the top of the chart.
- 5. Complete the poem. You can use any ideas or details from the novel up to this point. Notice in the example that the end of a line is not necessarily the end of a sentence. Stretch your creative thinking muscles!

Page number:

(example is on the next page)

The horrific events in Paris shocked everyone	For the
Simple reason that for many, murder and bloodshed were now a part of their lives for the	first time
But even in this chaos there can be heroes, such as	the Doctor
Whose prior experience earned him respect and he	felt, now,
He could not only put it behind him, but also	that his suffering
18 years in prison and the mental stress it created	was strength
And he could now use it for good as it gave him confidence	and power