

***A Tale of Two Cities* Historical Information, Reading Schedule, Writing Prompt**

- A Tale of Two Cities published serially in 1859.
- Historical novel (French Revolution) set in 18th century London and Paris.
- 1757-1794: The Period Represented in the Novel
 - begins in 1770 with Doctor Manette's release from the Bastille and ends in late 1793/ early 1794
 - the story as a whole covers a much broader period. In the larger view, the novel begins in 1757 (the year of Doctor Manette's incarceration under the ancien régime) and its final scene anticipates a post-revolutionary Paris.
- However, as a historical novel organized around the events of the French Revolution (1789-1794)
 - major historical events of the revolutionary period in France
 - the fall of the Bastille (July 14, 1789) - American Revolution ended 1783
 - neighborhood of St. Antoine
 - the September Massacres (September 2-6, 1792)
 - and the Reign of Terror (1793-1794).
 - minor historical details/events
 - First; Ch 2: highway robberies
 - Second; Ch 2: Old Bailey (Tyburn court for treason)
 - allusions to the American Revolution (Dickens had many American readers.)
 - Damiens was drawn and quartered for attacking King Louis XV
 - The beheading of Foulon ("Let them eat grass.")
 - etc.

Week 1

1. First; Ch 1-4
2. First; Ch 5-6 pg 48
3. Second; Ch 1-3
4. Second; Ch 4-6 pg 91

Week 2

5. Second; Ch 7-9 pg 113
6. Second; Ch 10-13 pg 133
7. Second; Ch 14-15 pg 151
8. Second; Ch 16-18 pg 170

Week 3

9. Second; Ch 19-21 pg 189
10. Second; Ch 22-24 pg 210
11. Third; Ch 1-4 pg 234
12. Third; Ch 5-8 pg 261

Week 4

13. Third; Ch 9-10 pg 284
14. Third; Ch 11-13 pg 304
15. Third; Ch 14-end pg 320

[Reading Quizzes \(if necessary\)](#)[Short Story](#) (reference for teacher only)

[Discussion Prompts](#)

[Narrator/POV Style Discussion](#)

ATTC Writing Prompt: In 1905, George Santayana argued that “Those who cannot remember [or understand] the past are condemned to repeat it.” Students will connect a recurring theme or idea from *A Tale of Two Cities* to an important contemporary idea or problem, then explain why young people should read classical literature to learn more about their current society and its problems.

carefully analyze and explain any literary aspect of *A Tale of Two Cities* that has evolved from their literary analysis and group discussions, including but not limited to the close reading topics: themes, characters, setting, and writing techniques.

Rubric will be modified [AP Lit rubric](#): 7-6 = 97/93 5-4 = 87/83 3 = 75 2-1 70/65 Note: Excellent 5 Principles of Good Writing can earn more points.