

## ***A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens**

### **English Language Arts, 10th Grade**

#### WHAT'S THE STORY?

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times” begins this classic tale of pre-revolutionary war France. Originally published in serial format, *A Tale of Two Cities* is a story of intrigue, betrayal, sacrifice, honor, courage, and love. The DeFarge family (Parisian revolutionaries) reunites Lucie Manette (raised in England) with her father (Doctor Manette) who was held as a political prisoner in the Bastille for many years. Lucie falls in love with the dashing Charles Darnay, a Frenchman who chooses to live in London having rejected his family’s aristocratic lifestyle. Sydney Carton, a Darnay look-alike, is also in love with the beautiful Lucie. Lucie marries Darnay who must return to France where he is captured and sentenced to death by guillotine. Seeing his love for Lucie as the only good thing in his life, Carton switches places with Darnay in prison and goes to his death feeling redeemed for his sinful life.

#### CONNECTIONS TO CURRICULUM

*The following are some, but not all, of the connections to curriculum for this novel.*

- **Unit 2: Impacting Others**
  - Essential Question: “How does an individual shape his or her environment? How does one influence others?”

#### KEY STANDARDS ADDRESSED

- Read and comprehend high quality dramas, prose, and poetry of appropriate quantitative and qualitative complexity for grade 10. RL.10.13
- Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text. RI. 10.1
- Analyze how the author unfolds an analysis or series of ideas or events, including the order in which the points are made, how they are introduced and developed, and the connections that are drawn between them. RI.10.3
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone. RI.10.4
- Analyze in detail how an author’s ideas or claims are developed and refined by particular sentences, paragraphs, or larger portions of a text. RI.10.5
- Determine an author’s point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how an author uses rhetoric to advance that point of view or purpose. RI.10.6
- Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is valid and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; identify false statements and fallacious reasoning. RI.10.8