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故事錄音開始和結束的標記

start ▶ stop ■



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MAIN CHARACTERS



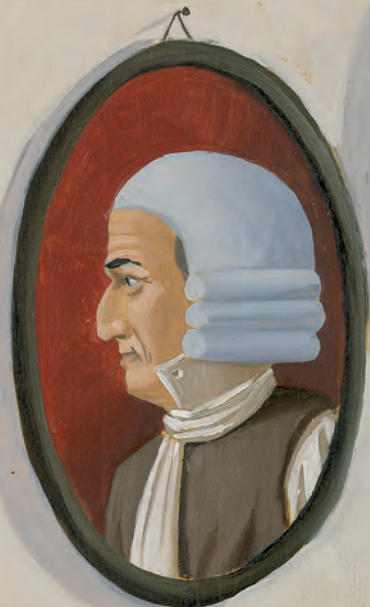
Doctor Alexandre Manette



Lucie Manette



Charles Darnay



Mr Jarvis Lorry



Sydney Carton

BEFORE YOU READ

Setting the Scene

- 1** Read the introduction to *A Tale of Two Cities*. Decide which answer – A, B, C or D best fits each gap.

Introduction

A Tale of Two Cities (1)_____ first published in 1859. It was not originally published as a novel; it was (2)_____ divided into weekly instalments in a magazine, *All the Year Round*. The two cities in the (3)_____ are Paris and London, and the story is set at the time of the French Revolution. The threat of revolution and social change was in the air all (4)_____ Europe at the time, and the after-effects of both the French and the American Revolutions were being felt. Dickens thought that there was a chance that revolution would come to Britain, too.

Critics today consider that Dickens was (5)_____ great changes in his own life by writing about change in society: Dickens had separated from his wife the year before, after a long, unhappy (6)_____. Furthermore, he had left his publishers after a disagreement, and *All the Year Round* was a new publication that he had started. *A Tale of Two Cities* (7)_____ one of Dickens most popular novels and has been adapted for television, theatre, cinema and radio many times.

- 1 A had B was C is D were
2 A sincerely B properly C actually D lovely
3 A title B page C headline D top
4 A that B by C in D over
5 A having B viewing C seeing D reflecting
6 A wedding B marriage C relation D engagement
7 A remains B stays C lasts D takes

Vocabulary

2 Reporting Verbs. Solve these anagrams to find verbs we can use to report speech. Then fill the gaps to complete the sentences with the Past Simple of the verbs.

- 1 sak 'How far exactly is it?' *asked* the child.
- 2 masrce 'Help!' the old man _____.
- 3 lyper 'Why?' she _____.
- 4 erwnas 'Because it's time,' the girl _____.
- 5 ryc 'Ouch! That hurts!' he _____.
- 6 outh 'Look out!' they _____. 'There's a car!'
- 7 eirwphs 'Shh! They'll hear us,' the small boy _____.

The Story

3 In *A Tale of Two Cities*, a number of different places are mentioned, including the following:

- Tellson's Bank
- The Port of Dover
- The prison at La Force
- The Bastille
- The Old Bailey Court
- The George Hotel in Dover
- The prison at the Abbaye
- A café in Saint Antoine, Paris

What predictions can you make about the story from the names of these places?

4 The first chapter of *A Tale of Two Cities* is called *Recalled to Life*. Tick the words you expect to read. Then read and check.

- | | | | |
|----------|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| death | <input type="checkbox"/> | robbery | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| funeral | <input type="checkbox"/> | passenger | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| young | <input type="checkbox"/> | king | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| elderly | <input type="checkbox"/> | punishment | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| prisoner | <input type="checkbox"/> | crime | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| nervous | <input type="checkbox"/> | gun | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Recalled to Life

- ▶ 2 It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of stupidity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything to look forward to, we had nothing to look forward to, we were all going directly to Heaven, we were all going directly the other way – in short, it was a time much like today.

A king with a large chin and a queen with a plain face ruled England. A king with a large chin and a queen with a pretty face ruled France. Nothing had changed and nothing would change. Things would be this way forever. King George III of England and his Queen Charlotte Sophia were sure of that. King Louis XIV and his Queen Marie Antoinette were sure of that, too. It was the year 1775.

Times were hard and the people were quietly angry. Poor people *had* nothing and *were* nothing. Rich people had *everything* and were *everything*. There was justice, but justice was cruel. In France, the people were afraid: even less serious crimes were punished with terrible punishments.

In England, the people were afraid, too. Robbery and murder were common, so no-one felt there was justice. The punishments



didn't seem to match the crimes: the courts didn't seem to be able to tell the difference between a thief and a murderer.



Our story starts in England, on a dark, rainy Friday night in late November, as the mail coach¹ was making its way to the port of Dover. It was cold and wet; the road was muddy and the horses were tired. The coach was getting heavier and heavier with the mud and now the hill was too much for them. The driver was nervous and so were the passengers: robberies were common and the Dover road was a favourite place for robbers to wait. The three passengers had no choice. They got out and began to walk up the hill in the mist and the rain, beside the coach. The mail guard looked down at his gun to check it was there.

'Listen, Joe. Can you hear that?' called the driver.

'I can't hear anything, Tom.'

'It's a horse, I'm sure it is. Get your gun and look out.'

The driver stopped the coach and the guard picked up his gun and listened. Yes, there it was! He could hear the sound of a horse in the distance and it was getting closer. 'Stop! Who's there? Stop or I'll shoot!'

'I'm looking for a passenger,' said a voice from the mist.

'What passenger?'

'Mr Jarvis Lorry.'

'That's me,' said one of the passengers. 'Is that you Jerry? What's the matter?'

'I've got a message from Tellson's Bank for you.'

'Come forward, then,' said the guard, with his finger on his gun,

1. coach: 老式四輪大馬車（現用於官方或皇家典禮中）



AFTER-READING ACTIVITIES

Stop & Check

1 Put these nine events into the order they appear in Chapter One.

- 1 He handed over a message to one of the travellers, a Mr Lorry.
- 2 Miss Manette felt faint and a lady with a red face looked after her.
- 3 Mr Lorry asked a servant there to tell him as soon as a lady called Miss Manette arrived.
- 4 Mr Lorry then gave a message for the man to take to Tellson's Bank.
- 5 Mr Lorry told her that her father was still alive.
- 6 The coach finally arrived at The George Hotel in Dover.
- 7 The mail coach was travelling to Dover.
- 8 A man on a horse stopped the coach.
- 9 When the lady arrived, she asked to speak to Mr Lorry immediately.

Vocabulary

2 Look again at the first page of Chapter One. Find words that mean the same as the words/phrases below. The words are in the same order in the text.

- 1 wait for excitedly _____
- 2 governed _____
- 3 certain _____
- 4 difficult _____
- 5 silently _____
- 6 frightened _____
- 7 horrible _____
- 8 killing _____
- 9 often happened _____

Vocabulary & Writing

3a Complete the sentences by forming a noun from the adjectives given.

- 1 It was the season of darkness, but also the season of light.
dark, light
- 2 It was the age of _____, but also the age of _____.
wise, stupid
- 3 It was the spring of _____, it was the winter of _____.
hopeful, despairing
- 4 There was a _____ system, but it was known for its _____.
just, cruel
- 5 People in Paris and in London suffered in _____.
poor
- 6 The courts didn't seem to be able to tell the _____ between a thief and a murderer.
different
- 7 _____ is important to this mission.
secret
- 8 You must bring your father back to _____.
healthy

3b Choose one of the following things to do. Write a paragraph about it.

a wise thing to do • a stupid thing to do
a just thing to do • a healthy thing to do

Speaking

4 Discuss the following questions in pairs.

- 1 Have you ever travelled on horseback or in a horse-drawn vehicle? What was it like?
- 2 Imagine travelling by coach in November 1775. What might the dangers be?
- 3 Have you ever travelled by boat? What was it like?
- 4 Imagine travelling by sea in November 1775. What might the dangers be?
- 5 Is there a capital city in the world that you would like to visit?
- 6 Is there a means of transport that you have never tried, but would like to try?