

A Tale of Two Cities
Study Guide

Book the Second: The Golden Thread, *continued*

On the line next to each chapter title, explain why it is an appropriate title for the chapter.

Chapter 11: A Companion Picture _____

1. How does Stryver's attitude about marriage differ from Darnay's?
2. Why does Stryver suggest that Carton consider finding a wife for himself?

Chapter 12: The Fellow of Delicacy (Who is it? Why?) _____

1. How does Mr. Lorry discourage Stryver from proposing marriage to Lucie?
2. How does Stryver handle the situation when Mr. Lorry visits him that evening?
3. Is Mr. Lorry, as he claims, nothing more than a "man of business"? Explain your answer.

Chapter 13: The Fellow of No Delicacy (Who is it? Why?) _____

1. Why does Carton say he is grateful that Lucie does not love or want to marry him?
2. What secret does Carton ask Lucie to keep as the "last confidence" of his life?
3. What exactly is Carton's promise to Lucie? (Remember this!) What might this promise foreshadow?

Chapter 14: The Honest Tradesman _____

1. Why is the mob following the hearse so disorderly?
2. Where have we (and Jerry) met "the spy," Roger Cly, before? (Who do you think is the "one mourner" in the funeral coach?)
3. What is Jerry Cruncher's secret occupation?
4. What does Jerry mean by the term "fishing trip"? What kind of luck did he have? How do you know?

5. What does the absence of a body in the grave suggest?
6. How might Jerry's trade explain his attitude toward prayer?

Chapter 15: Knitting

1. How do you know that the Mender of roads is a revolutionary? Where does Monsieur Defarge take him?
2. What does the Mender of roads tell the other "Jacques"? (See Book II, Chapter 8.)
3. Who is the tall man described by the Mender of roads? What is his crime? Why do the people of the village have hope that he will not be executed?
4. Why is the method of Gaspard's execution particularly cruel?
5. What do the Jacques mean when they vote to "register" the château and "all the race" of the Marquis?
6. "Judiciously show a dog its natural prey, if you wish him to bring it down one day." Explain what this metaphor means in terms of Monsieur Defarge's plans for the Mender of roads.
7. Who are the "birds and dolls" Madame Defarge refers to at the end of the chapter?

Chapter 16: Still Knitting

1. According to a rumor among the peasants, how have the expressions on the stone faces at the château of the Marquis changed since his death? How does this reflect events in the story?
2. What does Monsieur Defarge learn from "Jacques of the police"?
3. What does Madame mean when she says someone shall be "registered"? Why does Madame Defarge enter John Barsad in her knitted "registry" of names?
4. Where have we met John Barsad before? (See Book II, Chapter 3.)
5. According to Madame Defarge, what is "the rule" regarding vengeance and retribution? What does she believe is Monsieur Defarge's weakness?

6. What does Madame Defarge do to alert the other customers that a spy has entered the wine shop?
7. What does the spy say that causes Monsieur Defarge to “stop short and stare at him”?
8. What other information does the spy share?
9. What is foreshadowed (by the “structure yet unbuilt”) in the final paragraphs of the chapter?

Chapter 17: One Night _____

1. What does Dr. Manette mean when he says that for his daughter to have no memory of him would be worse than being dead?
2. Why do you believe Lucie checks on her father while he is sleeping the night before her wedding?

Chapter 18: Nine Days _____

1. Who did Miss Pross want Lucie to marry? Why?
2. Describe the relationship between Mr. Lorry and Miss Pross.
3. How does Mr. Lorry feel about his own marital status?
4. What assurance does Mr. Lorry give Lucie regarding the care of her father?
5. Dr. Manette is “deadly pale” after his private meeting with Charles. What might this suggest? (See Book II, Chapter 10.)
6. Describe the wedding.
7. When Mr. Lorry returns from Tellson’s, what does he find Dr. Manette doing? Why?
8. What two things does Mr. Lorry believe are important above all others? (What “kind deception” is to be practiced upon Lucie?)
9. How does Mr. Lorry decide to ease Dr. Manette out of his relapse?

Chapter 19: An Opinion (Whose?) _____

1. What is Mr. Lorry and Miss Pross’s plan once they realize that Dr. Manette is awake on the tenth morning and no longer making shoes?
2. How does Mr. Lorry discuss the relapse with Dr. Manette? Why?

3. What questions does Mr. Lorry ask in the course of this discussion? How does Dr. Manette respond?
4. Why does the doctor resist the idea of giving up his shoemaking tools? Under what condition does he agree to the removal of the tools?
5. What do Mr. Lorry and Miss Pross do when Dr. Manette goes to see Lucie? (How do they feel about their deed?)

Chapter 20: A Plea (What is the plea?) _____

1. Why does Carton ask Darnay for his friendship? (See Book II, Chapter 4.)
2. Why does Lucie ask her husband to be especially patient and kind with Sydney Carton? (See Book II, Chapter 13.)
3. Is Lucie's confidence in Carton justified? Explain.

Chapter 21: Echoing Footsteps (What do they represent?) _____

1. What is "the golden thread that bound them all together"?
2. This chapter advances the plot through a number of years. What events have transpired in England?
3. How are Lucie's and Carton's reactions to the echoes different? (See Book II, Chapter 6.)
4. What is "the great storm in France with the dreadful sea rising?" What occurs on July 14, 1789?
5. How does Dickens weave the two scenes in this chapter together even though they contrast dramatically?
6. Explain this metaphor: "...the living sea arose, wave on wave, depth on depth, and overflowed the city to that point."
7. What is suggested by Defarge's search of 105 North Tower? Does he find what he seeks? (See Book II, Chapter 6.)
8. Give an example of Madam Defarge's capacity for revenge and violence.
9. "Now, Heaven defeat the fancy of Lucie Darnay, and keep these feet [of the French revolutionaries] far out of her life!" Why?

Chapter 22: The Sea Still Rises (metaphor) _____

1. Describe The Vengeance.
2. Who is Old Foulon? Why is he marked for death by the Defarges? What happens to his son-in-law?
3. How do the killings by the peasants of St. Antoine affect the lives of the poor and hungry?
4. Does Dickens sympathize with or criticize the people of St. Antoine? Explain.

Chapter 23: Fire Rises _____

1. Explain this quotation: "...nevertheless, Monseigneur as a class had, somehow or other, brought things to this."
2. Who is the man in the wooden shoes? What does he do?
3. Who is Monsieur Gabelle? How does he escape the people of his village?
4. Why do the Mender of roads and the other villagers light candles in their windows?

Chapter 24: Drawn to the Loadstone Rock (Who is drawn to it?) _____

1. How much time has passed since the last chapter?
2. Explain this quotation: "...Monseigneur, as a class,...took to his noble heels."
3. What connection exists between Tellson's bank and the aristocracy in France? What draws Mr. Lorry there?
4. What does Mr. Lorry feel that Jerry Cruncher will be a perfect bodyguard on his trip to France?
5. What does Mr. Stryver think of the mysterious Marquis St. Evrémonte?
6. Describe the contents of Gabelle's letter?
7. List all the reasons Darnay has for wanting to return to France.
8. What does the loadstone rock represent? What does it mean for the characters in this story?