

BOOK 1: "Recalled to Life"

CHAPTER 1

1. What was the attitude of British and French nobility concerning the future of their rule? _____

2. In France, what was a common punishment for not kneeling to honor monks? _____
3. What was the crime situation in England at this time? _____

CHAPTER 2

4. How did passengers on the Dover mail interact with each other? Why did they act this way? _____

5. What was the guard's initial reaction to the arrival of Jerry Cruncher? _____
6. Who is Cruncher's message for, and what is this gentleman's occupation? _____
7. What was Cruncher's message? What was the reply? What do you think these messages mean?

CHAPTER 3

8. What is Cruncher's reaction to the message he is to take to Tellson's? _____
9. What question does Mr. Lorry ask the spectre? What is the spectre's answer? What do you think this means? _____

CHAPTER 4

10. Describe Mr. Jarvis Lorry's dress and physical appearance. _____
11. Who is Mr. Lorry waiting for in Dover? _____
12. Describe when/under what circumstances Mr. Lorry and the young lady met before. _____

13. What news does Mr. Lorry have for the young lady? _____
14. What is her reaction to the news? _____

CHAPTER 5

15. What are the people's reactions to the broken wine cask? _____
16. What does the spilled wine symbolize? _____
17. What power has ground the people down? What does this tell us about conditions in France?

18. Describe Defarge and his wife. _____
19. Why do the men in the wine shop refer to each other as Jacques? (Look up the word "jacquerie" for a hint.)

20. Why have Mr. Lorry and Miss Manette come to Defarge's wine shop? Why was Defarge chosen for this duty? _____

21. Why do you think Defarge shows Dr. Manette to the Jacques? _____

CHAPTER 6

22. What is Dr. Manette doing when they enter the room? _____

23. Describe the Doctor's physical appearance. What does this say about his prison experience? _____

24. What physical characteristic tells us that Lucie is indeed the Doctor's daughter? _____

25. When the doctor compares the strands of golden hair in his "locket" to Lucie's hair, what is his first conclusion? Does he finally figure out the truth? _____

How much of book 1 did you read? _____

BOOK 2: "The Golden Thread"

CHAPTER 1

1. Describe Tellson's bank. What is the bank's attitude toward change? _____

2. How does Tellson's treat the young men in its employ? _____

3. What behavior of Mrs. Cruncher makes Mr. Cruncher angry? Why does this anger him? _____

4. What physical characteristic of his father's does young Jerry wonder about? Can you make a guess about it? _____

CHAPTER 2

5. What does Mr. Cruncher think is "barbarous"? Do you agree or disagree with him? Why? _____

6. What is the "old Bailey"? What is it famous for? _____

7. Who is being tried, and what is the charge against him? _____

8. Who is present in the courtroom to act as witnesses for the prosecution? _____

CHAPTER 3

9. Where did Mr. Lorry, Miss Manette, and Dr. Manette first meet Charles Darnay? What was Lucie's opinion of him? _____

10. What did the wigged gentleman who was looking at the ceiling point out to the counsel, Mr. Stryver, on the piece of paper that he threw to him? _____

11. What does Mr. Stryver say about Mr. Barsad and Mr. Cly? _____

12. What happens in the courtroom to prove that Mr. Carton is much more observant than his manner lets on? _____
13. What personal service does Carton do for Charles Darnay? What do you think this hints at for the future? _____
14. What is the verdict? _____

CHAPTER 4

15. What do you think Carton's and Darnay's toast foreshadows? _____
16. What is Sydney Carton's opinion of himself? _____

CHAPTER 5

17. What is Carton's job? _____
18. Describe his working routine—when, where, and how. _____
19. After reading this chapter, describe Sydney Carton's life and tell how you think he feels about it. _____

CHAPTER 6

20. Where does Mr. Lorry go most Sundays? Why? _____
21. What kind of housekeeper is Lucie? _____
22. Describe Miss Pross as she appears on the surface and how she really is once you get to know her. _____
23. How does Miss Pross describe the Doctor's mental condition? What does it take to soothe him? _____
24. Who are the "hundreds of people" that visit the Manette's on Sundays? _____

CHAPTER 7

25. What kinds of people associate themselves with the Monseigneur? What does this say about what it takes to get ahead in France at this time? _____
26. Describe the "accident" that befalls the Monsieur the Marquis in the streets of Paris. _____
27. What is the Marquis's attitude toward this "accident"? _____

CHAPTER 8

28. What are the conditions in the Marquis's home village? _____
29. What unusual sight did the roadmender see? What prediction can you make from this? _____
30. Who is the Marquis expecting? Can you guess the identity of this person? _____

CHAPTER 9

31. Of what does Darnay accuse his uncle? _____

32. What is the Marquis's philosophy of keeping the common people under control? _____

33. What is Darnay's opinion of his family's behavior? What does he plan to do about it? _____

34. What happens to the Marquis? What does the note tell us? _____

CHAPTER 10

35. A year after his uncle's death, describe Charles Darnay's professional and personal condition. _____

36. In proclaiming his love for Lucie, how does Charles show consideration for Dr. Manette? _____

37. What are the two promises that the Doctor makes Charles? _____

38. What is the effect on the Doctor of making these promises? Why do they have this effect on him? _____

CHAPTER 11

39. What future plan does Stryver confess to Carton? _____

40. What does Stryver advise Carton to do? _____

CHAPTER 12

41. Why does Stryver stop in to tell Mr. Lorry of his plans? _____

42. What is Mr. Lorry's reaction to Stryver's news? _____

43. What does Mr. Lorry offer to do for Stryver? _____

44. What is Stryver's attitude when Lorry comes to the house with information? Why does he act this way? _____

CHAPTER 13

45. In his talk with Lucie, what is Carton's opinion of himself? _____

46. What does Carton say he would do if Lucie should love him? _____

47. What memory does Carton want to take with him? _____

48. What promise does Carton make Lucie? Where do you think this promise will lead him? _____

CHAPTER 14

49. Whose funeral procession does the crowd attack? Why do they attack it? _____

50. What is Jerry Cruncher's reaction to the mob violence? _____

51. Describe Mr. Cruncher's "fishing tackle." What kind of "fish" do you think he is going for with this type of "tackle"? _____
52. What name does young Jerry give to his father's "trade"? What is Mr. Cruncher's response when young Jerry says he wants to be in that trade when he grows up? Do you see an irony in "resurrection man" and "recalled to life"? _____
- _____

CHAPTER 15

53. What is the fate of the Marquis's killer? Who reports that fate to Defarge? _____
- _____
54. What is the sentence that Defarge and his compatriots give after hearing the fate of the Marquis's killer? What are the future implications of this sentence? _____
- _____
55. How are these sentences recorded so that they will be kept secret until the appropriate time? _____
- _____
56. Why does Defarge compliment his guest for cheering the king and queen? _____
- _____

CHAPTER 16

57. What information does Defarge get from Jacques on the police force? Where have you heard of this man before? _____
58. Why is Defarge depressed? How does Madame Defarge comfort him? _____
- _____
59. What is the significance of Madame Defarge pinning a rose in her hair? _____
60. What does the spy learn from the Defarges? What do they learn from him? Why does the spy's information disturb the Defarges? _____
- _____

CHAPTER 17

61. What are the Doctor's feelings about Lucie's impending marriage? _____

CHAPTER 18

62. What does Charles Darnay tell the Doctor on the morning of his marriage to Lucie? _____
- _____
63. What is the Doctor's response to the combination of this information and the giving of his daughter in marriage? _____
64. What two things does Mr. Lorry do in reaction to the Doctor's condition? _____
- _____

CHAPTER 19

65. How does Mr. Lorry go about approaching the Doctor about his condition for the nine days without upsetting him? _____
66. What is the Doctor's opinion about Mr. Lorry's "hypothetical" man? _____
67. What does the Doctor say is the one thing that could bring on another relapse? What does he mean by this? _____
68. What recommendation does Mr. Lorry make to the Doctor? How does he talk him into following it? _____

CHAPTER 20

69. What request does Carton make of Charles? _____
70. What does Lucie request of Charles? _____

CHAPTER 21

71. What is the significance of the "echoing footsteps"? _____
72. What sad thing befalls Charles and Lucie during this time period? _____
73. What has happened to Carton and Stryver over the years? _____
74. What happened in Paris on July 14, 1789? _____
75. Where does Defarge demand to be taken first? Why? _____
76. How does Madame Defarge show her merciless strength? _____

CHAPTER 22

77. Who is Madame Defarge's lieutenant in leading the women? What does this "nickname" imply? _____
78. Who is Old Foulon? What is his fate? _____
79. What has begun? _____

CHAPTER 23

80. What is the symbol of the revolutionaries? _____
81. What happens at the Marquis's villa? What is this an example of? _____

CHAPTER 24

82. In the year 1792, where was the headquarters for the "Monseigneur" in Paris? _____
83. Why is Mr. Lorry going to France? What is his mission? _____
84. What is Gabelle's urgent plea? _____
85. What is Charles's decision? Why does he decide on this course of action? What does this say about his character? _____

How much of Book 2 did you read? _____

BOOK 3: "The Track of the Storm"

CHAPTER 1

1. What type of reception does Charles receive in France? _____
2. What is the "emigrant decree"? How does it affect Charles? _____

3. What is Defarge's reaction to Charles's plea for help? Why does he act this way? _____

4. Who is this La Guillotine who has become the new darling of France? _____
5. How is Charles's detention worse than general imprisonment? Why do you think this is worse?

CHAPTER 2

6. What horrible thing is located in the courtyard of Tellson's in Paris? What makes it horrible?

7. Who are Mr. Lorry's surprise guests? What news do they bring him? _____

8. Why does the Doctor say he leads a "charmed life" in Paris? _____
9. What is the mob's reaction to the Doctor's plea for help? _____

CHAPTER 3

10. Who is the messenger that comes to Mr. Lorry? What is his message? _____

11. Why does Madame Defarge say she visits Lucie? What is her true reason? _____

12. What does Lucie ask of Madame Defarge? How does she respond? _____

CHAPTER 4

13. What conditions does the Doctor find in the prison? _____
14. What has the eighteen years he spent in prison done for the Doctor? _____
15. What position does the Doctor achieve because of his status? How does this position help Charles?

16. What is the new legal order in France at this time? _____

CHAPTER 5

17. How does Lucie respond to living fifteen months in constant fear that every day might be Charles's last? What does this say about her? _____
18. What small scrap of good news does the Doctor bring Lucie? _____

19. Who is the wood-sawyer? What is his attitude toward those in prison? _____

20. What is the Carmagnole? Why does Lucie think it is terrible? _____

CHAPTER 6

21. Who orchestrates Charles's acquittal? Is his defense built on fact or emotion? _____

22. What is the mob's reaction to Charles's acquittal? Why is this surprising? _____

CHAPTER 7

23. Why do Charles and his family stay in France? What is their style of living there? _____

24. What happens to Charles during his first night of freedom? _____

CHAPTER 8

25. Who do Miss Pross and Jerry Cruncher run into while shopping? _____

26. Who does Carton know this man as? _____

27. How does Carton get this man to help him? _____

28. What startling information does Mr. Cruncher have concerning the death of Roger Cly? How does this information help Carton? _____

CHAPTER 9

29. What is Barsard going to do for Carton? What do you think Carton's plan is? _____

30. What memory gives Carton comfort as he wanders the Paris streets? What does it tell us of why he turns out the way he has? _____

31. Who are Charles's accusers? Why is one of them particularly surprising? _____

32. What is the form of Dr. Manette's accusation? _____

CHAPTER 10

33. Who are the twin brothers who need the Doctor's services? _____

34. Who is the sick woman? What is wrong with her? _____

35. What does this say about the brothers' character? _____

36. What is the boy's last act? How has it turned out? _____

37. What is the Marquis St. Evermonde's wife's request of the Doctor? Whose mother is she?

38. Who has the Doctor put in prison? Why? _____

39. What is the last thing the Doctor writes in his account? What effect does its reading have?

CHAPTER 11

40. Why doesn't Lucie collapse when Charles is condemned? What does this say about her?

41. Why does Carton encourage Dr. Manette to continue his efforts to free Charles? What does this say about Carton? _____

CHAPTER 12

42. Why does Carton go to Defarge's wine shop? _____

43. What are Madame Defarge and Defarge arguing over? _____

44. Why is Madame Defarge so merciless towards Charles and his family? _____

45. What is the Doctor's condition when he returns? What is its cause? _____

46. What papers does Carton give Mr. Lorry to hold? _____

47. Why does Carton instruct Lorry to be prepared to leave the next day? What do you think is Carton's plan? _____

CHAPTER 13

48. What does Charles write in his "last" letter? _____

49. How does Carton get Charles to go along with his plan? _____

50. How does Carton get Charles out of prison? _____

51. How is Carton going to keep the promise he made to Lucie years before? _____

CHAPTER 14

52. What is Madame Defarge's plan? What does Defarge think of it? _____

53. What plan are Miss Pross and Mr. Cruncher following? Why? _____

54. What happens between Miss Pross and Madame Defarge? _____

CHAPTER 15

55. At the execution, what do they say about Carton? _____

56. What does Carton foretell for Charles and Lucie, and how does their future honor him?

How much of Book 3 did you read? _____

AFTER READING THE NOVEL: QUESTIONS FOR DEEPER UNDERSTANDING

PLOT

1. Reread the first paragraph of the novel. How could it be used to describe today's world?
2. What were the conditions in France that lead to the revolution?
3. This is a novel of scenes, not characters. Find important scenes in which Dickens used visual descriptions as symbols for some theme or idea and explain what the descriptions are symbolizing. (i.e. the spilled wine as a symbol of blood in Chapter 5, "The Wineshop")
4. Do a plot outline being sure to mark the climax. Explain how you made your choice.
5. Explore Dickens' image of "the road" as it runs throughout the novel. (i.e., the last sentence in Chapter 1)

CHARACTERIZATION

1. In Book 1, Chapter 4, why is Mr. Lorry reluctant to be seen talking to Charles Darnay? Give some examples how this attitude does or does not change over time.
2. Dickens describes Tellson's much in the same way he describes his characters. If Tellson's was a person, describe his/her appearance, social philosophy, and political beliefs.
3. Why does Dickens describe Stryver as "the lion" and Carton as "the jackal."
4. Look at Charles Darnay and his uncle the Marquis; how are they different, and why did Charles develop so differently from his uncle and his father?
5. Support or argue against this statement: Madame Defarge is Dickens' symbol for the French Revolution.
6. Reread the scene between Madame Defarge and Miss Pross in Book 3, Chapter 14. Compare and contrast the two, focusing on their actions and motivations.
7. Discuss the following relationships: Mr. Lorry and the Manettes, Sydney Carton and Lucie, Charles and Dr. Manette, Defarge and Dr. Manette, Charles and the Marquis.
8. Decide if the following characters are well-rounded or flat, static or dynamic: Mr. Lorry, Lucie Manette, Dr. Manette, Charles Darnay, Sydney Carton, Stryver, Miss Pross, Jerry Cruncher, Defarge, and Madame Defarge. Be prepared to defend your answer.

THEME

1. Explore Dr. Manette and Sydney Carton as symbols of the idea of social regeneration through suffering and sacrifices.
2. Madame Defarge obviously believes that children should be punished for the sins of their fathers. Support or defend her position.
3. Compare and contrast how Charles Darnay and Defarge both put duty before desire.
4. Discuss how Gaspard's actions and fate symbolize the cruelty of the French aristocracy and the effect this cruelty had on the French people.
5. Look up the term noblesse oblige." What language does it come from, and what does it mean? In light of the events in the novel, how is this ironic?
6. Write your definition of honor and dishonor. In light of your definition, would you describe the following characters as either honorable or dishonorable? Defarge, Stryver, Sydney Carton, Mr. Lorry, and Jerry Cruncher.
7. Trace the author's symbolic use of light and shadow throughout the novel (Lucie-lucid-light).
8. Contrast the stoicism of the Defarges with the self-pity of Carton.