A Tale of Two Cities

Book key

1  Open answers
2  a  knit
   b  determined
   c  committee
   d  sentence
   e  Republic
   f  fraternity
   g  ash
   h  evidence
3  a  wine
   b  daughter, England
   c  prisoner
   d  servant
   e  shoemaker
   f  spy
   g  boat/ship
   h  Charles Darnay
   i  not guilty/innocent
4  a  Mr Lorry is an official at Tellson’s Bank/a banker.
   b  Jeremy Cruncher is the messenger for Tellson’s Bank.
   c  Roger Cly is Darnay’s servant. He was also a thief.
   d  Mr Stryver is a lawyer and defends Darnay in court.
   e  Sydney Carton is a lawyer and works for Mr Stryver.
   f  Miss Pross has looked after Lucie Manette since she was a child.
5  a  They are some of the poorest people in Paris. They are so poor that when a barrel of wine spills, some of them drink it with their hands.
   b  They take him to England.
   c  John Barsad and Roger Cly.
   d  No. This is because the court learns that John Barsad was a spy and in a debtor’s prison. He has also been accused of dishonesty. They are also told that Roger Cly has been a thief.
   e  His similarity to Darnay in appearance makes the jury realize that a witness has perhaps seen someone else. Carton appears in court to prove this.
6–7  Open answers
8  1  d  2  f  3  h  4  b  5  a  6  c  7  g  8  e
9  a  Darnay says this to Sydney Carton. Carton agrees that this is true. They are having a drink together after the court trial.
   b  Carton says this to Mr Stryver. They are discussing their relationship, as they have known each other since their schooldays.
   c  Mr Lorry says this to Miss Pross. They are discussing the reason why Dr Manette never mentions the shoemaking time.
   d  The Marquis d’Evrémonde says this to the man whose child he has run over. He throws him a gold coin.
   e  Darnay says this to the Marquis. We have learnt that the Marquis is Darnay’s uncle.
10  a  Because Darnay looks so much like him but is so much better than him in many ways. Carton knows that he is clever and kind but he does not use his talents well. Also, Carton is in love with Lucie but realizes that he will never win her. He thinks that Darnay will, and is very jealous.
   b  Miss Pross thinks that the Doctor is afraid of losing his memory again.
   c  He probably wants to find out who the Marquis is and where he lives.
   d  He says that it is built on unhappiness and ruin.
11–13  Open answers
14  a  T  b  F  c  F  d  F  e  T  f  T  g  F
15  a  He seems very upset. For some reason, Darnay’s face brings back bad memories.
   b  He does not think Stryver will succeed with Lucie and persuades Stryver not to ask her to marry him.
   c  She feels very sad for him and cries.
   d  They are very angry and decide to put the castle and all the family of Evrémonde on the list to be destroyed.
16  a  Madame Defarge says these words to the road mender.
   b  The King, the Queen and the lords and ladies of the court.
   c  She means that these people – the ones with ‘the finest feathers’ – are going to be killed when the right time comes (in other words, during the Revolution).
   d  They tell us that Madame Defarge can probably be a very cruel and violent woman and is certainly a republican.
17–19  Open answers
20  1  i  2  c  3  e  4  g  5  d  6  a  7  h  8  b  9  f
21  a  … she wants to warn people that the stranger is dangerous.
   b  … Darnay has told him his real name. It has obviously brought back the Doctor’s bad memories.
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c … he does not want Lucie to know that the Doctor is ill again. He goes to stay with him to look after him.
d … it was Dr Manette’s old cell and he wants to look for something there.
e … he was the tax collector for the Marquis, which means he is a ‘bad man’.

22–24 Open answers
25 a Tellson’s Bank
   b Gabelle
   c Paris
   d Defarge
   e La Force/prison
   f Lucie, Dr Manette
   g Madame Defarge
   h kill
26 a Because Tellson Bank’s books and papers may be seized at any moment. Mr Lorry hopes he can save some of the more important ones.
   b Because Gabelle has been put in prison because he has acted for an émigré, someone who has left the country – in other words, Darnay. Gabelle says that if Darnay returns, he will be able to get him out of prison.
   c Because there is a new law punishing with death all émigrés who return to France. The law was passed the day Darnay left England.
   d ‘In secret’ means that Darnay is put in a small cell where he is alone.
   e He is the medical officer.
   f He is tried and put to death.
27–28 Open answers
29 a T b F c F d F e T f T g F h T
30 a The Doctor says this to Lucie the day before Darnay’s first trial. The Doctor believes that because he will be a witness in the trial, he will be able to save Darnay.
   b Darnay says this to the court during his trial. He is explaining that he returned to France to try to help Gabelle.
   c The Doctor says this to Lucie after the first trial, when Darnay has been freed.
   d When Darnay is arrested for the second time, almost immediately after he has been freed, one of the men who arrests him says this to the Doctor.
   e Miss Pross says this to her brother, Solomon, when she sees him in a wine shop. He is using the name John Barsad.
   f Barsad says this to Carton when Carton asks if Barsad works at the prison where Darnay is kept. He thinks Carton intends to ask him to help Darnay escape.
31 Carton tells Barsad that he knows that he is a police spy for the Republican committees but that he was once a spy for the English government. Carton threatens to tell the committees about him. Because of this Barsad agrees to do what Carton wants.
32–33 Open answers
34 a Carton reach Darnay
   b medicine
   c the Defarges and Dr Manette
   d Dr Manette
   e a boy and girl
   f Darnay
   g prison
   h guilty
   i leave
35 a … they are afraid he will tell the Minister the story about the boy and girl.
   b … she is the sister of the boy and girl who died.
   c … she wants to do what she can for the boy and girl’s family.
   d … he knows that his paper is the cause of Darnay’s death.
   e … they are in danger if they stay in Paris.
36 He wrote these words because he was put in prison (where he expected to die) because of the Evrémonde brothers. They allowed him to find out about their terrible treatment of a family in their village, and then because he did not promise to remain silent about it, they had him put in prison.
37 Open answers
38 a in prison/an hour
   b boots, coat
   c cloth, becomes unconscious
   d guards
   e Darnay
   f Lucie, her child
   g left Paris
   h Miss Pross, killed
   i guillotine
   j peaceful
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39 a Because Carton tells him that Lucie has asked him to.

b He reminds her of the words he spoke to her years ago, when he told her that he would ‘give his life to keep a life she loved beside her’. He wants Lucie to know that he is saving Darnay because of his love for her.

c He asks Barnard to take the unconscious Darnay to Mr Lorry. He tells Barnard to remind Mr Lorry of his promise to have Carton’s place in the carriage ‘occupied’.

d Miss Pross becomes deaf because when she fights with Madame Defarge, Madame’s gun fires.

40–51 Open answers

Discussion activities key

1–2 Open answers

3–4 The final script for the ‘play’ will be quite long. You may decide to focus on just part of the scene, depending on the time available. Here is how it might begin:

Judge: Silence in court. Bring in the prisoner.

Charles Darnay, you are accused of spying and helping the French King. You have pleaded innocent to these charges. Is that correct?

Darnay: Yes, it is.

Government lawyer: The prisoner is in the habit of travelling between France and England on business. What this business is might not have been discovered, but fortunately, an honest man, John Barsad, who was at one time the prisoner’s friend discovered papers in the prisoner’s pockets and in his room. On these papers were lists of the English Armies and their positions. It cannot be proved that these lists are written in the prisoner’s handwriting, but this shows that the prisoner is a clever and imaginative man who has tried in this way to cover up his actions.

Judge: Call the first witness, Mr John Barsad.

Mr Stryver: Have you ever been a spy?

Barsad: Certainly not.

Mr Stryver: Have you ever been in prison?

Barsad: No.

Mr Stryver: Never in a debtors’ prison?

Barsad: I don’t see what that has to do with it.

Mr Stryver: How often?

Barsad: Two or three times.

Mr Stryver: Have you ever been accused of dishonesty?

Barsad: It was only a game of cards. They said so – but they were drunk.

Mr Stryver: Are you sure you know the prisoner well?

Barsad: Yes.

Mr Stryver: Do you expect to be paid for giving evidence?

Barsad: Certainly not!

Judge: Call the second witness, Mr Roger Cly.

5–10 Open answers

11 Possible answer

I have been very much surprised by what has happened to me today. Mr Sydney Carton, the lawyer who was so helpful to Charles Darnay during his trial, came to see me and declared that he loved me. He said that he would do anything for me, but that he realized the situation was hopeless and that he did not deserve to be loved by me. I find his behaviour very strange and disturbing. I think he is being over-dramatic!

12–14 Open answers

15 Possible answer

I have spent the past few days in a very disturbed mental state. My good friend, Mr Lorry, was able to make me realize what was happening to me by describing my symptoms in great detail. It appears that I have been suffering from my memories of all the years I spent locked in prison. I spent all my time making shoes in order to avoid thinking too much of the outside world. Seeing my beloved daughter marry the son of the man responsible for my imprisonment brought back all those memories and I returned to my shoe-making bench.

16–18 Open answers

19 Possible answer

Dear Mr Lorry,

I am now very busy working as a doctor in the prisons of Paris. Thanks to the many years I spent in Bastille, I have been able to gain the trust of the people in charge of looking after the prisoners. They keep me informed of what is happening in the prisons and I am aware that Charles is alive and well. I am confident that nothing will happen to him for as long as keep working in the prisons. I know he is a good man, and I am sure that I will be able to convince the court when the time comes.
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20–21 See the suggested answer to Activities 3 and 4 for an example of the type of answer to be expected.

22–27 Open answers

Activity worksheets key
1  a  Charles Darnay  b  Lucie  c  Mr Lorry  d  Sydney Carton  e  Thomas Carlyle  f  Dr Manette  g  Gabelle
2  a  T  b  T  c  NT Monsieur Defarge keeps Dr Manette safe in his wine shop.  d  NT Monsieur Defarge used to work for Dr Manette.  e  NT Lucie Manette was brought up by Miss Pross.  f  T  g  NT The Bastille is a great prison in Paris.  h  T  i  NT Lucie's father doesn't remember much about his life before he was sent to prison.

3  a  Jeremy Cruncher asks the question to a man near him at the courthouse. The answer is that the trial of Charles Darnay is about to begin.  b  Mr Stryver asks the question so that Lucie will tell the court that Charles Darnay is a good man who helped her and her father.  c  Mr Stryver asks a witness this question so that he can point out that his evidence is worthless because he is unable to tell the difference between Darnay and Carton.  d  Carton asks Darnay this question in a tavern after the trial. The answer is that Darnay realizes Carton does not like him even though he helped him at the trial.  e  Stryver asks this question of Carton in the office after Darnay's trial. Carton thinks the answer is partly because Stryver is his employer and not the other way round.

4  a  3  b  2  c  3  d  1  e  3  f  2
5  a  3  b  1  c  2  d  7  e  4  f  5  g  6
6  a  before  b  Madame Defarge  c  her brother  d  after
7  a  Madame Defarge is talking to her husband. She is asking him for details about the new spy – John Barsad.