

# Summer Reading

## Advanced Placement Literature/English 5-Summer Reading Assignment

**Text:** *A Tale of Two Cities* – Charles Dickens.

The correct edition of the novel is from Penguin Classics; (2000) **ISBN-13:** 978-0141439600. This book is available new or used from a variety of sources. Copies are also available at school in the office to check out.

### Assignment:

Part 1: While reading the novel, you must keep a reading journal. The journal should contain ten entries that are written at various points during your reading of the novel. Note that the novel is only 390± pages in length, so entries may or may not correspond to specific chapters. Each entry should have the following components:

- A. Vocabulary – listing of any new or unfamiliar vocabulary with the definition and page number on which the word appears.
- B. Summary – a 5-7 sentence paraphrasing of what has happened in the novel so far (entry 1) or since your last entry. Entry 10 should include the conclusion and outcome of the novel.
- C. Reflection – a 5-7-sentence reflection on the plot or the characters, or the issues/reactions that occur in this section. This section may include a question about your reading as well.

Part 2: Essay. Respond to ONE of the following prompts. Essays should contain specific details from the novel to support the main points of the essay.

- One of the novel's most important motifs is the figure of the double. What is the effect of Dickens's doubling technique? Does he use doubles to draw contrasts, comparisons, or both?
- How does religion color the attitudes of the characters in this novel? Compare Sydney Carton to Lucie Manette, or Jerry Cruncher to the Defarges.
- Does the plot's reliance on fate and coincidence--including the resemblance of Carton to Darnay, the discovery of Dr. Manette's document, and the double recognition of Solomon Pross a.k.a. John Barsad by Miss Pross and Jerry Cruncher--make the story less believable or less powerful?
- Examine the motifs of light and darkness in this novel, and trace how they relate to Carton, Lucie, Dr. Manette, and/or Madame Defarge's character development. Consider especially the Christ-figure in the novel.
- The most recurrent criticism of this novel is that the characters do not have the psychological depth or development of other Dickensian figures. Does Sydney Carton's transformation undermine this claim? Is this criticism really fair toward the other characters?
- Examine the theme of resurrection in the novel. Which characters are brought back to life and how? Is there any situation from which resurrection is impossible?

The essay is to be written following MLA formatting standards. Use the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, Seventh Edition, and *Simon & Schuster Handbook for Writers* for correct grammar, formatting, and citations. All essays must be in 12 point Times New Roman, saved as a Microsoft Word doc. or docx., using black ink on white paper. 1000 words ±.

All work is due on the first day of class. Late work loses eight points per day, no exceptions.