EXTRA WRITING ASSIGNMENTS/DISCUSSION QUESTIONS - *A Tale of Two Cities*

**Interpretation**

1. From what point of view is the story told? Why is that important?

2. Charles Dickens is well-known for his life-like characters. Explain how he uses them to add meaning to *A Tale of Two Cities*.

3. Where is the climax of the story? Defend your choice.

4. Explain the importance of the settings in *A Tale of Two Cities*. Could the same story have been told in another place and time and still have had the same effect?

5. In what ways does Charles Dickens try to make the story believable? Is he successful; is it believable?

6. What are the main conflicts in the story and how are they resolved?

7. Characterize Charles Dickens's style and explain how it affects our perception of his work.

8. In what ways is *A Tale of Two Cities* a mystery story?

**Critical**

9. Explain how in *A Tale of Two Cities* "future" generations are affected by the past.

10. Analyze Dickens's use of Tellson's Bank as a prison.

11. Explain the use and importance of knitting and cobbling.

12. Explain the first paragraph of the story.

13. Compare and contrast Charles Darnay with his father and uncle.

14. Explain the roles of these characters in the story: Barsad, Cruncher, Gabelle, Mr. Lorry, Marquis de St. Evermonde, and Stryver. How was each of these characters important?

15. Why did Dickens choose to call this book *A Tale of Two Cities* instead of *Aristocrats and Peasants*, for example?

16. Categorize the following characters as "good guys" or "bad guys": Madame Defarge, Marquis de St. Evermonde, Stryver, Cruncher, Dr. Manette, Charles Darnay, Barsad (Solomon Pross), Cly and Carton.
17. Compare and contrast Stryver and Carton.

18. Discuss Dickens's use of coincidence in *A Tale of Two Cities*.

19. Discuss Dickens's use of symbolism in *A Tale of Two Cities*.

20. What are the main themes/ideas presented in *A Tale of Two Cities*?

21. What is Lucie's use as a character? Would the story have essentially been the same without her? Why or why not? Why was she included?

**Critical/Personal Response**

22. Suppose the story had been written in the first person narrative by Charles Darnay. How would that have affected our perception of the events?

23. Is there enough information about the French Revolution in this story to classify the book as "historical fiction"? Why or why not?

24. Suppose Darnay had been sent to the guillotine at the end of the story. How would the messages of the book have changed?


**Personal Response**

26. If you could have been any character in this book, which one would you have liked to have been?

27. Did you enjoy reading *A Tale of Two Cities*? Why or why not?

28. The French Revolution was a noteworthy revolution from the past. What are some more recent revolutions that have occurred in the world?

29. What, actually, is an aristocrat? Are they all bad?

30. Does this book have a hero? If, so, who is it? If not, why doesn't anyone qualify to be called a "hero"?

**LESSON NINETEEN**

**Objectives**

1. To give students the opportunity to practice writing to persuade