Set in Paris and London at the time of the French Revolution, this is the story of two men, Frenchman, Charles Darnay, and Englishman, Sydney Carton. As the Revolution takes hold and the Terror begins, the two men's destinies bring them together in a powerful story of love, hate and revenge. We meet revolutionaries and aristocrats, and see the poverty of many in both London and Paris contrasted with the wealth of a few. A Tale of Two Cities is Charles Dickens's most famous historical novel.

In this reader you will also find:
- Information about Charles Dickens’s life
- Glossary of difficult words
- Appreciation and Extension Activities
- First (FCE) Activities

Tags
Classic literature, Justice, Love
The ELI Readers collection is a complete range of books and plays for readers of all ages, ranging from captivating contemporary stories to timeless classics. There are three series, each catering for a different age group: Young ELI Readers, Teen ELI Readers and Young Adult ELI Readers. The books are carefully edited and beautifully illustrated to capture the essence of the stories and plots. The readers are supplemented with ‘Focus on’ texts packed with background cultural information about the writers and their lives and times.
For this series of ELI graded readers, we have planted 5000 new trees.

The FSC certification guarantees that the paper used in these publications comes from certified forests, promoting responsible forestry management worldwide.
Charles Dickens

A Tale
of Two Cities

Adaptation and activities by Janet Borsbey and Ruth Swan
Illustrated by Giacomo Garelli
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Main Characters</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Before you read</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Chapter One</td>
<td>Recalled to Life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Activities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Chapter Two</td>
<td>The Café, the Three Men Called Jacques and the Lonely Shoemaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Activities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Chapter Three</td>
<td>The Blue Flies Buzz, Buzz, Buzz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Activities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>Chapter Four</td>
<td>The Marquis St. Evrémonde</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>Activities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>Chapter Five</td>
<td>The Register</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66</td>
<td>Activities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>Chapter Six</td>
<td>East, West, South and North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78</td>
<td>Activities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82</td>
<td>Chapter Seven</td>
<td>A Message from Gabelle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td>Activities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94</td>
<td>Chapter Eight</td>
<td>‘Save the Prisoner, Evrémonde!’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>102</td>
<td>Activities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>106</td>
<td>Chapter Nine</td>
<td>A Life you Love</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>116</td>
<td>Activities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>118</td>
<td>Focus on...</td>
<td>Charles Dickens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>Focus on...</td>
<td>The French Revolution – Important Events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>122</td>
<td>Focus on...</td>
<td>Rich and Poor in France and England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>124</td>
<td>Focus on...</td>
<td>Crime and Punishment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>126</td>
<td>Test yourself</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>127</td>
<td>Syllabus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>128</td>
<td>Other Titles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These icons indicate the parts of the story that are recorded

start ▶️ stop ▶️
MAIN CHARACTERS

Doctor Alexandre Manette

Mr Jarvis Lorry

Lucie Manette

Sydney Carton

Charles Darnay
Setting the Scene

1 Read the introduction to *A Tale of Two Cities*. Decide which answer – A, B, C or D best fits each gap.

**Introduction**

*A Tales of Two Cities* (1)_______ first published in 1859. It was not originally published as a novel; it was (2)_______ divided into weekly instalments in a magazine, *All the Year Round*. The two cities in the (3)_______ are Paris and London, and the story is set at the time of the French Revolution. The threat of revolution and social change was in the air all (4)_______ Europe at the time, and the after-effects of both the French and the American Revolutions were being felt. Dickens thought that there was a chance that revolution would come to Britain, too.

Critics today consider that Dickens was (5)_______ great changes in his own life by writing about change in society: Dickens had separated from his wife the year before, after a long, unhappy (6)_______ . Furthermore, he had left his publishers after a disagreement, and *All the Year Round* was a new publication that he had started. *A Tale of Two Cities* (7)_______ one of Dickens most popular novels and has been adapted for television, theatre, cinema and radio many times.

1  A □ had          B □ was          C □ is          D □ were
2  A □ sincerely    B □ properly    C □ actually    D □ lovely
3  A □ title        B □ page         C □ headline    D □ top
4  A □ that         B □ by           C □ in          D □ over
5  A □ having       B □ viewing      C □ seeing      D □ reflecting
6  A □ wedding      B □ marriage     C □ relation    D □ engagement
7  A □ remains      B □ stays        C □ lasts       D □ takes
Vocabulary

2 Reporting Verbs. Solve these anagrams to find verbs we can use to report speech. Then fill the gaps to complete the sentences with the Past Simple of the verbs.

1 sak ‘How far exactly is it?’ asked the child.
2 masrce ‘Help!’ the old man ________.
3 lyper ‘Why?’ she ________.
4 erwnas ‘Because it’s time,’ the girl ________.
5 ryc ‘Ouch! That hurt!’ he ________.
6 ousth ‘Look out!’ they ________‘There’s a car!
7 eirwpshs ‘Shh! They’ll hear us,’ the small boy ________.

The Story

3 In *A Tale of Two Cities*, a number of different places are mentioned, including the following:

- Tellson’s Bank
- The Port of Dover
- The prison at La Force
- The Bastille
- The Old Bailey Court
- The George Hotel in Dover
- The prison at the Abbaye
- A café in Saint Antoine, Paris

What predictions can you make about the story from the names of these places?

4 The first chapter of *A Tale of Two Cities* is called *Recalled to Life*. Tick the words you expect to read. Then read and check.

- death
- funeral
- young
- elderly
- prisoner
- nervous
- robbery
- passenger
- king
- punishment
- crime
- gun
Recalled to Life

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of stupidity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything to look forward to, we had nothing to look forward to, we were all going directly to Heaven, we were all going directly the other way – in short, it was a time much like today.

A king with a large chin and a queen with a plain face ruled England. A king with a large chin and a queen with a pretty face ruled France. Nothing had changed and nothing would change. Things would be this way forever. King George III of England and his Queen Charlotte Sophia were sure of that. King Louis XIV and his Queen Marie Antoinette were sure of that, too. It was the year 1775.

Times were hard and the people were quietly angry. Poor people had nothing and were nothing. Rich people had everything and were everything. There was justice, but justice was cruel. In France, the people were afraid: even less serious crimes were punished with terrible punishments.

In England, the people were afraid, too. Robbery and murder were common, so no-one felt there was justice. The punishments
didn’t seem to match the crimes: the courts didn’t seem to be able to
tell the difference between a thief and a murderer.

Our story starts in England, on a dark, rainy Friday night in late
November, as the mail coach* was making its way to the port of
Dover. It was cold and wet; the road was muddy and the horses were
tired. The coach was getting heavier and heavier with the mud and
now the hill was too much for them. The driver was nervous and so
were the passengers: robberies were common and the Dover road
was a favourite place for robbers to wait. The three passengers had
no choice. They got out and began to walk up the hill in the mist and
the rain, beside the coach. The mail guard looked down at his gun to
check it was there.

‘Listen, Joe. Can you hear that?’ called the driver.
‘I can’t hear anything, Tom.’
‘It’s a horse, I’m sure it is. Get your gun and look out.’

The driver stopped the coach and the guard picked up his gun and
listened. Yes, there it was! He could hear the sound of a horse in the
distance and it was getting closer. ‘Stop! Who’s there? Stop or I’ll shoot!’
‘I’m looking for a passenger,’ said a voice from the mist.
‘What passenger?’
‘Mr Jarvis Lorry.’
‘That’s me,’ said one of the passengers. ‘Is that you Jerry? What’s
the matter?’
‘I’ve got a message from Tellson’s Bank for you.’
‘Come forward, then,’ said the guard, with his finger on his gun,
'but keep your hands where I can see them.'

The passengers hid their watches and valuable things deep inside their coats. The horse and rider came out of the mist, both were covered from head to foot in mud. The rider got off and handed Mr Lorry a piece of paper. Mr Lorry thanked him and read:

_Wait at Dover for the young lady._

‘Well Jerry, tell them that my answer is _Recalled to life._’

‘That’s a very strange answer, sir.’

‘Maybe it is, but when they hear that, they’ll know that the answer is from _me_ and from no-one else. Good night.’

The coach slowly moved on again and Jerry watched until it disappeared in the mist. _Recalled to life._ What kind of answer is that? Very strange. Very strange. No, Jerry, he can’t know, but that wouldn’t suit _my_ sort of work!’ he said to himself.

Meanwhile, the coach moved on and Mr Lorry became lost in his dreams. He was on his way to dig someone out of a grave*. But which of the ghostly faces that he saw in his dreams was the face of the buried person? Proud, sad, angry faces, but always the face of a man of about forty-five. Tired, pale and thin, and with every hair on his head completely white. ‘Buried? How long?’ Mr Lorry repeatedly asked this ghost.

The answer was always the same ‘Eighteen years. Eighteen years.’

‘Shall I bring her to you?’ asked Mr Lorry.

Here, the answers were often different, sometimes his ghost was crying, ‘No! It’s too soon.’ sometimes impatient, ‘Take me to her,’ or sometimes confused, ‘I don’t know her, I don’t understand.’

And when the imaginary conversation finished, Mr Lorry would start to dig, dig and dig.

---

*a grave* a place in the ground where you bury a dead person
The words ‘eighteen years’ were still in his ears when he woke up. However, the shadows of the ghostly face faded away with the rising sun.

The mail coach finally arrived in Dover and stopped at The George Hotel. By this time, there was only one remaining passenger and he was wrapped up from head to toe to keep warm. He was shown to his room and the staff eagerly waited for him to re-appear, to see what their new guest looked like. He washed and changed and went down to breakfast. Mr Lorry was about sixty years old. He was dressed in a formal brown suit that was a little worn, but very well-kept. He had bright eyes and a healthy colour in his cheeks and, though his face was lined, it wasn’t from worry. He sat still by the fire and waited patiently for his meal but, with the effects of the warmth from the fire and the long journey, Mr Lorry dropped off to sleep.

The noise of his breakfast arriving woke him up and he said to the waiter, ‘Please get a room ready for a young lady. She could arrive at any time today. She might ask for Mr Jarvis Lorry, she might ask for a gentleman from Tellson’s Bank. Please let me know when she gets here.’

Late in the evening, while Mr Lorry was finishing his dinner, he heard the sound of wheels, on the road outside. The sound stopped at the hotel, ‘This is the young lady!’ he said to himself.

Sure enough, the waiter came to tell him that Miss Manette had arrived from London and wanted to see the gentleman from Tellson’s Bank as soon as possible.
Miss Manette was still wearing her travelling coat and holding her hat, when Mr Lorry went into her sitting room. She was a pretty young lady, about seventeen years old and with blonde hair and blue eyes. For a tiny moment, he thought she looked like the child that he had once held in his arms, protecting her from the wind and rain, while crossing the Channel from France. Then the thought disappeared from his mind and he kissed her hand.

‘Please sit down,’ she said.

Her voice was clear and pleasant and you could only just tell that she was French, not English. ‘I received a letter saying something about a discovery about my poor father. My long dead father, who I never saw. The letter mentioned going to Paris but, as I am alone in the world, I asked if I could go with a gentleman from Tellson’s to protect me and help me.’

‘Myself, Miss.’

‘Yes, so they sent a message to you, to ask if you would be kind enough to wait for me. They said you would tell me some news and that some of it might be surprising to me. What news have you got for me? I’m very interested to know.’

‘It is difficult to know where to begin. I am a man of business and my story concerns one of our customers in France. It was twenty years ago and he was a French gentleman and a Doctor, like your father. Also like your father, he was from Beauvais and was well-respected in Paris. At that time, I was working in our French bank and I had been working there for many years. The doctor married an English lady and ...’

‘But this is my father’s story, sir. Do I know you? I’m beginning to
think I do. My mother only lived a few years after my father died. Was it you who brought me to England? I’m almost sure it was. Please tell me.’

‘Yes, it was me, and Tellson’s Bank have been looking after you ever since. But this isn’t the whole of my story. What if your father, Doctor Manette, didn’t die when you think he did? What if he had just disappeared? What if he had been taken away? Perhaps no-one knew where to, although it would have been easy to guess. What if his wife had asked and asked and asked for help to find him? If she had asked everyone possible, even the king and queen, but no-one told her? In that case, my story wouldn’t be your father’s story, but the story of my doctor from Beauvais.’

‘Please tell me more. I’m a little afraid, but I have to know the truth.’

‘Good. You’re a brave young lady and you need to be. I’ll go on. His wife had a baby. Yes, a girl. Then, two years later, his wife died, I believe broken-hearted, after never stopping to search for him. However, she hadn’t wanted her child to suffer as she had suffered, so she let the girl believe both parents were dead. Now, this story does become your father’s story and I have to tell you, that he has been found. He has another name, but he’s alive. He has been in prison all these years, not dead as you were told. He has changed a lot and he’s no longer the man he once was but, Miss Manette, the truth is he really is alive. He has been taken to the house of an old servant in Paris and we’re going to go there to see him. This is a secret mission, Miss. We mustn’t let anyone know his true identity or he will be in terrible danger. My job is to identify him, if I can, and yours is to look after him and bring him back to health.’
Miss Manette’s face went white. She gripped Mr Lorry’s hand and began to faint. ‘I’m going to see his ghost, not him. His ghost!’

Mr Lorry called for help and immediately a large, wild-looking woman ran into the room and pushed him back against the wall. She was very red in the face and had a strange hat on her head. Mr Lorry wasn’t even sure if she was a woman or a man, she was so strong.

‘What have you done, you in brown? Couldn’t you tell her what you had to without frightening her to death? Do you call that being a banker?’

Mr Lorry was confused and didn’t really know how to answer, but then, shouting at the servants, the wild woman went on, ‘Don’t just stand there you lazy lot. Go and fetch some water for my young lady!’

Despite his confusion, Mr Lorry was impressed by the woman’s care and attention for Miss Manette. ‘I very much hope you’ll be coming to France with Miss Manette, Madam,’ he said.

‘If nature had intended me to go across salt water, do you think I would have been born on an island?’

Mr Lorry thought about this for a moment and, not really knowing how to answer this question either, he decided it would be better to leave. He left the room, still thinking about it.
AFTER-READING ACTIVITIES

Stop & Check

1 Put these nine events into the order they appear in Chapter One.

1 He handed over a message to one of the travellers, a Mr Lorry.
2 Miss Manette felt faint and a lady with a red face looked after her.
3 Mr Lorry asked a servant there to tell him as soon as a lady called Miss Manette arrived.
4 Mr Lorry then gave a message for the man to take to Tellson’s Bank.
5 Mr Lorry told her that her father was still alive.
6 The coach finally arrived at The George Hotel in Dover.
7 The mail coach was travelling to Dover.
8 A man on a horse stopped the coach.
9 When the lady arrived, she asked to speak to Mr Lorry immediately.

Vocabulary

2 Look again at the first page of Chapter One. Find words that mean the same as the words/phrases below. The words are in the same order in the text.

1 wait for excitedly
2 governed
3 certain
4 difficult
5 silently
6 frightened
7 horrible
8 killing
9 often happened
3a Complete the sentences by forming a noun from the adjectives given.

1. It was the season of darkness, but also the season of light.
   dark, light

2. It was the age of ________, but also the age of ________.
   wise, stupid

3. It was the spring of ________, it was the winter of ________.
   hopeful, despairing

4. There was a ________, system, but it was known for its ________.
   just, cruel

5. People in Paris and in London suffered in ________.
   poor

6. The courts didn’t seem to be able to tell the ________ between a thief and a murderer.
   different

7. ________ is important to this mission.
   secret

8. You must bring your father back to ________.
   healthy

3b Choose one of the following things to do. Write a paragraph about it.

- a wise thing to do • a stupid thing to do
- a just thing to do • a healthy thing to do

Speaking

4 Discuss the following questions in pairs.

1. Have you ever travelled on horseback or in a horse-drawn vehicle? What was it like?
2. Imagine travelling by coach in November 1775. What might the dangers be?
3. Have you ever travelled by boat? What was it like?
4. Imagine travelling by sea in November 1775. What might the dangers be?
5. Is there a capital city in the world that you would like to visit?
6. Is there a means of transport that you have never tried, but would like to try?
Grammar for First

5 Use of English. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between two and five words, including the word given.

1. She had never been to Paris before.
   FIRST
   It ................................................................. she had ever been to Paris.

2. It was only because the coach had stopped that the messenger caught them.
   NEVER
   If the coach hadn’t stopped ......................................................... caught them.

3. Mr Lorry advised Miss Manette to look after her father.
   WERE
   ‘If ................................................................. look after your father,’
   Mr Lorry said.

4. The horses couldn’t pull the coach up the hill because it was too steep.
   MUCH
   The hill ................................................................. for the horses.

5. I wish I had known that my father was alive!
   ONLY
   If ................................................................. that my father was alive.

6. ‘She has arrived from London,’ said the waiter to him.
   TOLD
   The waiter ................................................................. arrived from London.

7. They decided to stay in the hotel, because there was a chance of rain.
   CASE
   They decided to stay in the hotel ........................................... rained.

8. ‘I’d prefer to get a boat in the morning.’
   RATHER
   I ................................................................. in the morning.
Writing

6 Imagine you are Lucie Manette. Write a diary entry for the evening after your conversation with Mr Lorry.
   • Explain exactly what happened when you arrived at the hotel.
   • Describe Mr Lorry.
   • Explain what Mr Lorry said to you.
   • Say how you felt and how you’re feeling now.

BEFORE-READING ACTIVITY

Vocabulary & Speaking

7a Are these adjectives from Chapter Two positive (P), negative (N) or both (B)? Tick the boxes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>P</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>narrow</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>strong</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>curly</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>faint</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>round</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>steady</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>elderly</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>poor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>steep</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>poisonous</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7b Talk in pairs. In Chapter Two, Lucie Manette meets her father for the first time. Where do you think she finds him? What do you think he’s like?
Charles Dickens is one of the most important English writers. He wrote a large number of novels, but he also wrote short stories, essays, newspaper articles and travel books. He is regarded by many as one of the finest writers of the Victorian Age.

**Early Life**

Charles John Huffam Dickens was born in Landport, Portsmouth on the south coast of England, on February 7th 1812. He was the second of eight children. His father, John Dickens, was a secretary. Charles’ mother’s name was Elizabeth.

When Charles was four years old, the family moved to Chatham in Kent. Charles was very happy there. His father paid for him to go to a private school, which he liked very much.

In 1822, his father began to experience financial problems, so the family moved to London. They lived in Camden Town, a poor area of London, and they could no longer afford to send their children to school.

**Money Problems**

In Victorian times, people often went to debtors’ prison if they had financial problems. In 1824, John Dickens and his family (as was common at the time) went to prison for debt. Rather than join them in prison, Charles started work in a factory to try and help his family. His life was very hard and he often wrote about child labour, prisons and factory conditions in his work. When the family came out of prison, Charles went back to school. He studied until he was fifteen years old, then he started work.
SYLLABUS

Level B2
This reader contains the items listed below, as well as those included in previous levels of the ELI Readers syllabus

Verbs:
Present Perfect Continuous
Past Perfect Continuous
perfect infinitives
a variety of phrasal verbs
complex passive forms
wish/if only
modal verbs: might, needn’t
reporting verbs: explain, repeat,
reply, answer, ask, cry, scream,
shout
tenses with This is the first ...

Types of Clause:
type-three conditionals
mixed conditionals
relative: embedded, defining

Other:
connectives: although, despite,
in spite of, however
time sequencers
inversion
YOUNG ADULT READERS

STAGE 1
Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver’s Travels*
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*

STAGE 2
Charles Dickens, *Great Expectations*
William Shakespeare, *Romeo and Juliet*
Bram Stoker, *Dracula*
William Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*
Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*

STAGE 3
Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre*
Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*
Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*
William Shakespeare, *Macbeth*
Jane Austen, *Sense and Sensibility*

STAGE 4
James Joyce, *Dubliners*
Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*
Henry James, *The Turn of the Screw*
Emily Brontë, *Wuthering Heights*
Edgar Allan Poe, *Stories of Mystery and Suspense*
Charles and Mary Lamb, *Tales from Shakespeare*
Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*
Anthony Hope, *The Prisoner of Zenda*

STAGE 5
Virginia Woolf, *Mrs Dalloway*
Francis Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*

STAGE 6
Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*
J. Borsbey & R. Swan, Editors, *A Collection of First World War Poetry*
Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest*

YOUNG ADULT READERS LIGHT

Edgar Allan Poe, *The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym of Nantucket*
Natsume Soseki, *Botchan*
Set in Paris and London at the time of the French Revolution, this is the story of two men, Frenchman, Charles Darnay, and Englishman, Sydney Carton. As the Revolution takes hold and the Terror begins, the two men’s destinies bring them together in a powerful story of love, hate and revenge. We meet revolutionaries and aristocrats, and see the poverty of many in both London and Paris contrasted with the wealth of a few. A Tale of Two Cities is Charles Dickens’s most famous historical novel.

In this reader you will also find:
- Information about Charles Dickens’s life
- Glossary of difficult words
- Appreciation and Extension Activities
- First (FCE) Activities

Tags
Classic literature, Justice, Love