

TITLE: A Tale of Two Cities

AUTHOR: Charles Dickens

CATEGORY/GENRE: Classics, Historical Fiction, Literature

SERIES: No

AWARDS: None

SIMILAR BOOKS BY OTHER AUTHORS: *The Count of Monte Crisco* by Alexandre Dumas, *Les Misérables* by Victor Hugo, *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck, *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky

AVAILABLE: STC Library has the book; book on CD is available through SEO consortium; Libby: ebook, audiobook; Hoopla: ebook, audiobook

ABOUT THIS BOOK: On a large scale, *A Tale of Two Cities* is Charles Dickens' commentary on the French Revolution and the social injustices that existed between the rich and the poor in both France and England. But it is so much more! It mainly follows the English family of Lucie Manette, who was believed to be an orphan and put into the care of Jarvis Lorry, a banker in England. When Lucie's father, Dr. Manette, is discovered to be alive in Paris after being wrongly imprisoned for 18 years, the two are reunited. What follows is where the story truly begins. Lucie is pursued by three different men, and she marries Charles Darnay. Darnay is a Frenchman who was acquitted of treason against England but has a big secret of his own. One of the other suitors, Sydney Carton, continues to love Lucie and becomes a family friend. All is well in London until Darnay receives a letter calling him to Paris, where the French patriots are exacting vengeance on anyone they believe is playing a part in the oppression of the poor French people, including aristocrats and even innocent people. Their methods include riots, mock trials, and the horrible guillotine. Will Charles Darnay's secret be the death of him, too? The novel has themes of love, resurrection, class, justice, and sacrifice. Dickens weaves together many likeable and unlikeable characters and brings the tale to a thrilling conclusion.

YOU MIGHT LIKE THIS BOOK IF...you like historical fiction or stories about conflict, social injustice, patriotism, and selfless love. *A Tale of Two Cities* is a book worth reading; however, it has a lot of descriptive text and may require a dictionary or help from a source such as SparkNotes.com to aid in understanding some of the text.