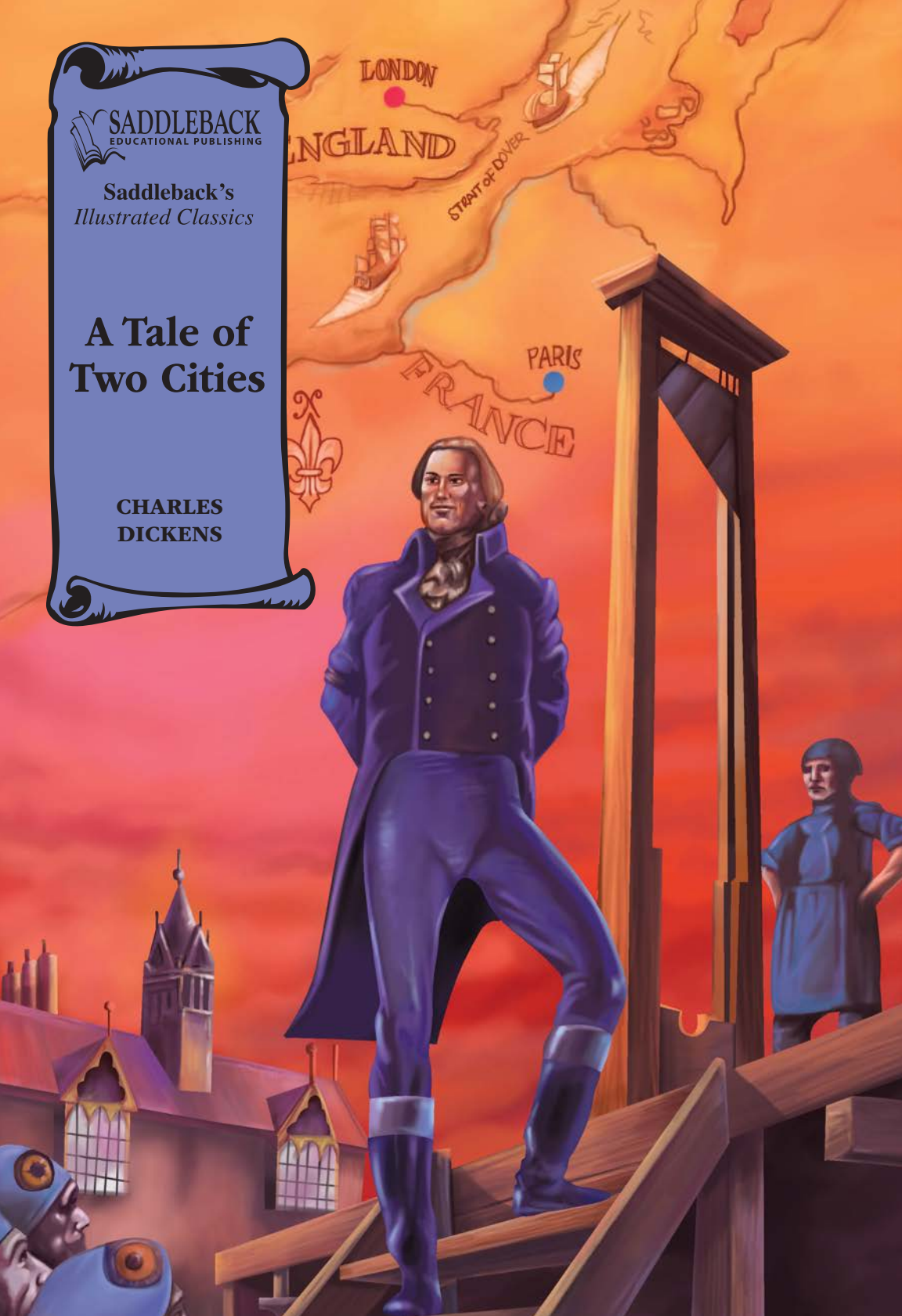


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A Tale of Two Cities

**CHARLES
DICKENS**



Charles Dickens

Charles Dickens, perhaps the most popular and greatest English novelist of all time, was born in 1812, the son of a clerk in the Navy-Pay office. Although from a poor background and forced to go to work at the age of 10, he was still both ambitious and industrious. His education came on his own through books—those in school as well as his own.

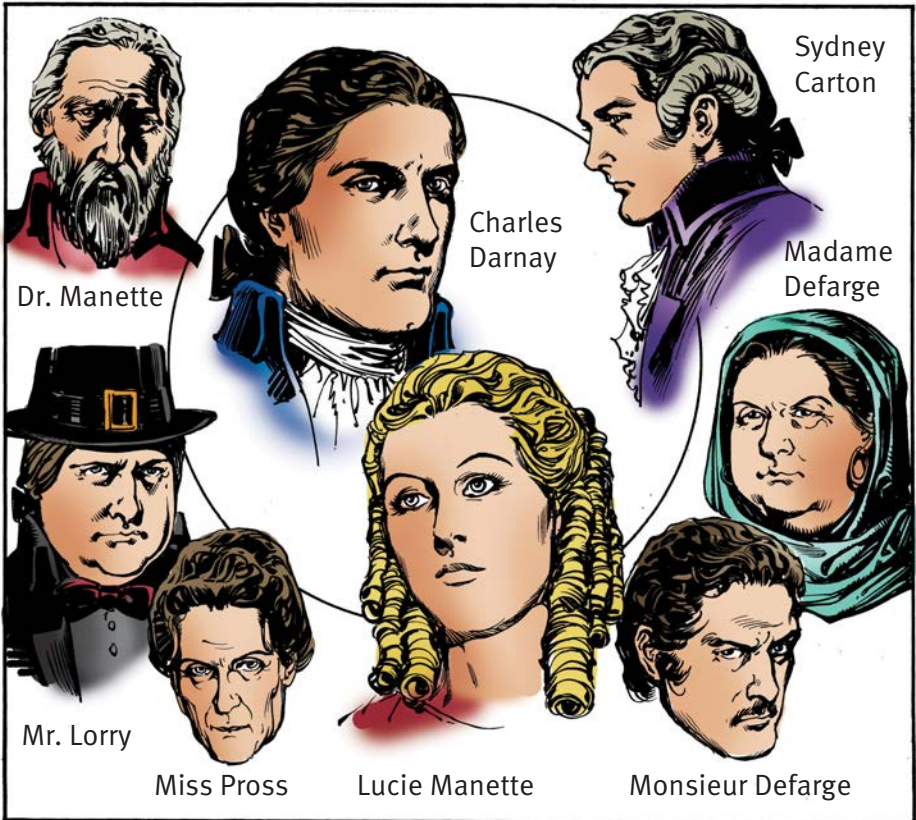
Dickens wrote of people as he saw them, and because of his concern for social conditions in England, created some of the most memorable, timeless characters in literature. At 31 years old, in order to pay some pressing debts, he wrote *A Christmas Carol*, a wonderful, intriguing, joyful mystery about the spirit of Christmas, and without question one of the most widely read classics of all time. The particular characters Dickens created for this story—Scrooge, Bob Cratchit, Tiny Tim, and the Ghosts of Christmas—will always remain indelibly etched in literature.

The turning point in his life came at the time of his marriage. Both his wedding day and his first publication occurred in the same year. Some of his other timeless stories such as *A Tale of Two Cities*, *Oliver Twist*, and *Great Expectations* were immensely popular in Victorian England; however, it is said that *A Christmas Carol* is his finest accomplishment.

Dickens, surely one of the greatest storytellers and creators of memorable characters, died in 1870.

Charles Dickens

A Tale of Two Cities



Until the year 1775, the kings of both France and England ruled with great power. But they did not rule kindly or fairly, and people all over were dying from hunger. At last the peasants of France, some 300,000 in number, joined together to overthrow the King. They captured him, tried him, found him guilty, and had him beheaded.

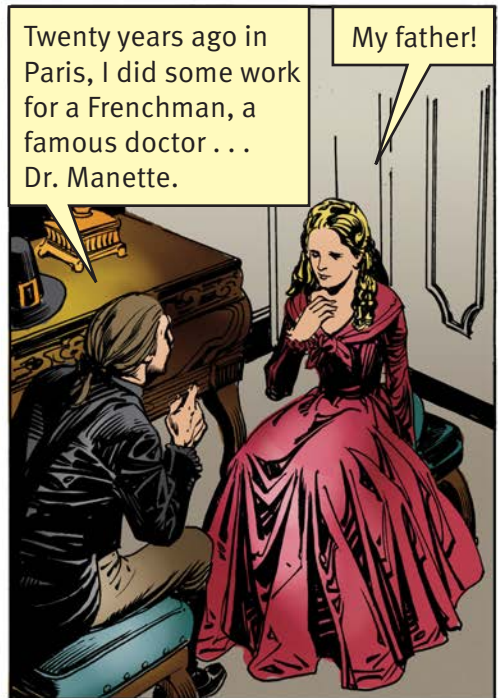
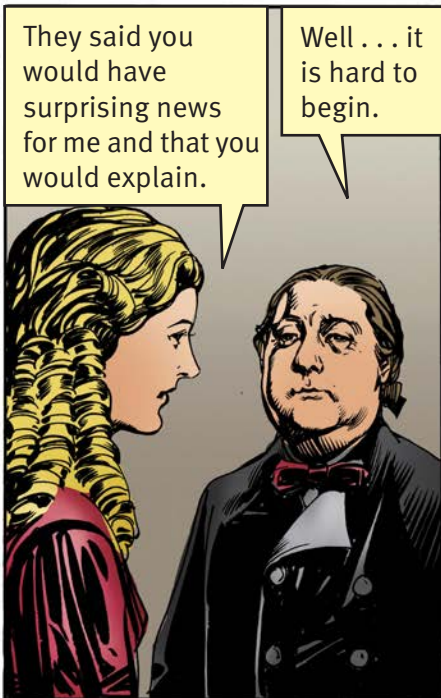
“It was the best of times,
it was the worst of times,
it was the age of wisdom,
it was the age of foolishness,
it was the season of Light,
it was the season of Darkness,
it was the spring of hope,
it was the season of despair.”

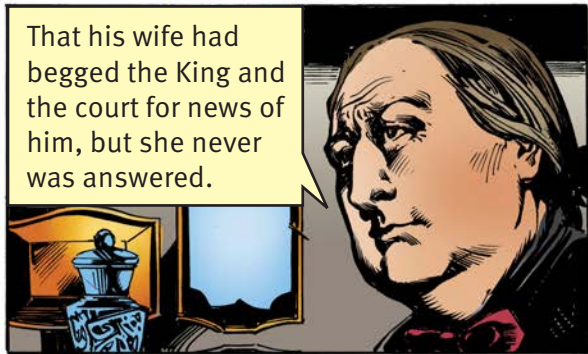
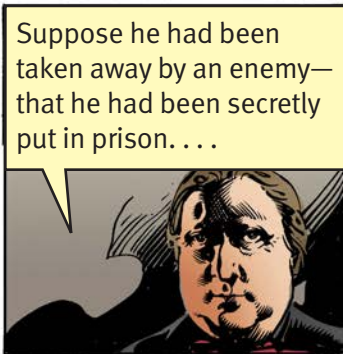
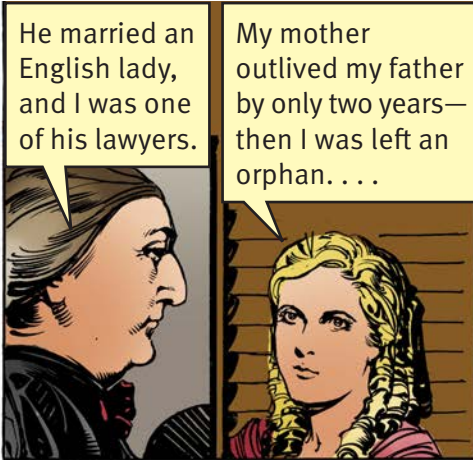


It is at this time that our story takes place . . . set in the cities of Paris and London . . . the people are some of the innocent and some of the guilty who were alive at that time.

One winter day in 1775, the mail coach from London finished its journey to Dover.







It will be his ghost!

No! Greatly changed, worn out, but alive, and taken to the house of an old servant in Paris.



We will go to him there—I to prove who he is, and you to bring him back to life!



In the St. Antoine area of Paris, on a narrow, dirty street, was the wine shop of M. and Mme. Defarge. Mr. Lorry took Lucie there upon their arrival in Paris.

M. Defarge?

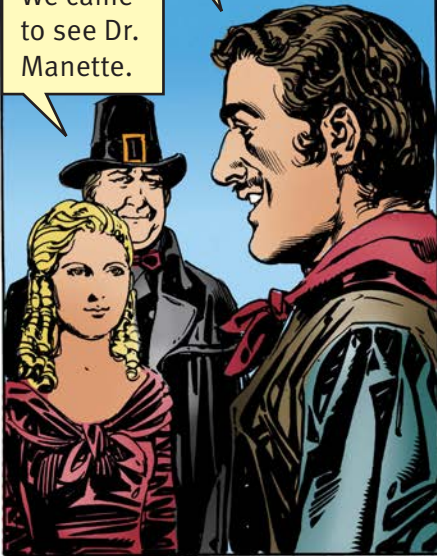
Sit down. My husband will be here soon.



M. Defarge entered the shop smiling, open-faced.

Good day. May I help you?

We came to see Dr. Manette.



He led them into an apartment, up a steep, dark, dirty staircase with garbage on every landing.

Best to start slowly. It is five flights up.



When he learned who Mr. Lorry was, he was changed instantly into an angry man.

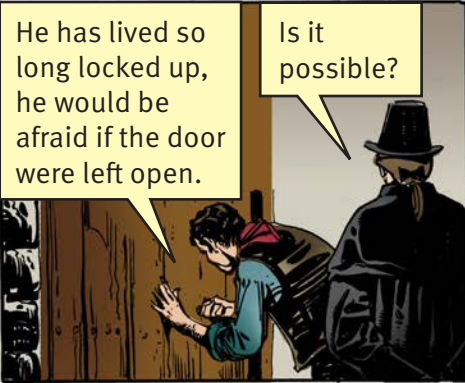
This way, please.



He stopped at the door of an attic room and took out a key.

He has lived so long locked up, he would be afraid if the door were left open.

Is it possible?

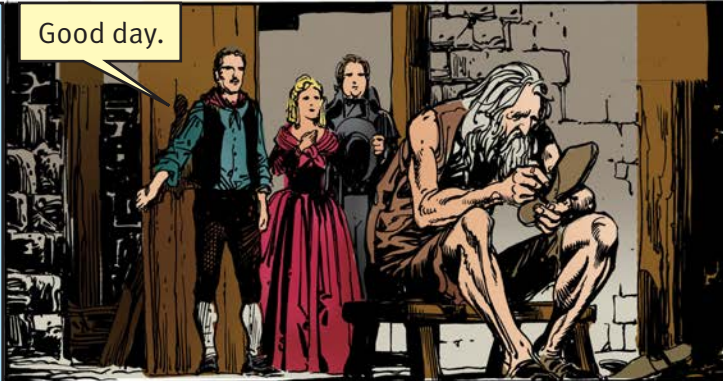


Possible? Yes. And many other such things are possible, and done—done! Every day!



One would have said the attic room was too dark for work; yet a man sat on a low bench, very busy making shoes.

Good day.



You have a visitor.

Dr. Manette, do you remember me?



For a second it looked as if he might remember.



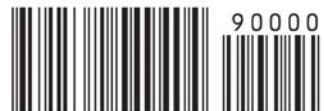
A Tale of Two Cities

Journey between London and Paris during that perilous time known as “The French Revolution.” This is a story of two men that look alike—one in danger of being beheaded by the guillotine, and the other, a hero that sacrifices his own life for his friend. The French Revolution has been called “The Reign of Terror,” and you will feel the terror in your own bones as you read!



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