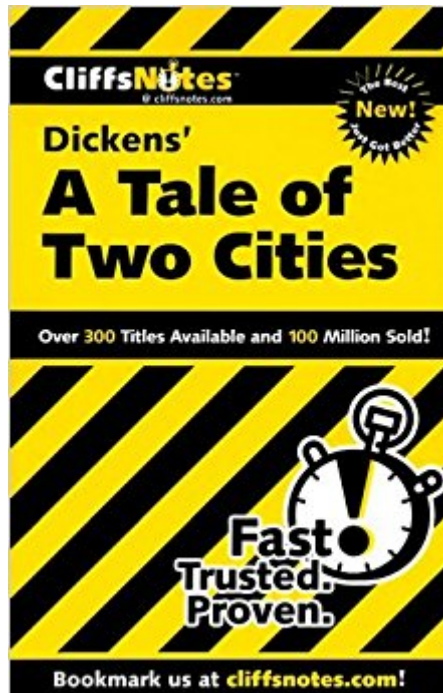


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CliffsNotes On Dickens' A Tale Of Two Cities (Cliffsnotes Literature Guides)



Synopsis

The original CliffsNotes study guides offer expert commentary on major themes, plots, characters, literary devices, and historical background. The latest generation of titles in this series also feature glossaries and visual elements that complement the classic, familiar format. In CliffsNotes on A Tale of Two Cities, you experience one of Charles Dickens's most important works as he recounts the horrors of the French Revolution in what amounts to a cautionary tale warning of the possibility of revolution in 18th-century England. From its first line ("It was the best of times, it was the worst of times") to its last ("It is a far, far better thing that I do, than I have ever done; it is a far, far better rest that I go to than I have ever known"), Dickens's novel of revolution, sacrifice, and redemption continues to captivate modern imaginations. Chapter summaries and commentaries lead you through Dickens's "Tale," and critical essays give you insight into the women of A Tale of Two Cities and the French Revolution. Other features that help you study include Character analyses of the main characters A character map that graphically illustrates the relationships among the characters A section on the life and background of Charles Dickens A review section that tests your knowledge A Resource Center full of books, articles, films, and Internet sites Classic literature or modern modern-day treasure — you'll understand it all with expert information and insight from CliffsNotes study guides.

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Customer Reviews

This cliff notes saved my life! As a student who needed to read a Dickens' book, I was more than confused. While the book is a classic, the structure and style makes it a hard one to read. I have to say that I did in fact read the book, the whole book, no skimming or cheating. However, I read each chapter and then read what Cliff Notes had to say on it. Cliff Notes really clarified what happened and offered insight into a book full of depth and metaphors. I recommend this to anyone, though I also caution against reading only the Cliff Notes. While they were insightful and a major help to myself, they do not tell the whole story or all the details. This was a great weapon to have in my arsenal!

I indeed read the book, but the notes helped me understand it a lot better.

Not that this product is bad, but I don't like recommending this in lieu of reading the book. In our case it suited the purpose since the young lady for whom it was purchased was about to go into full rebellion over reading this most boring book. Of all the books Dickens wrote why do High Schools insist on this one? Parents, help your kids occasionally with the Cliff notes but don't make a habit of it.

It has been my experience with Cliffsnotes guides that they always make me feel a little dumb. In a very good way. I usually read them after finishing the book under analysis and then realize how much I had missed from the story. This one, about Dickens's Tale of Two Cities, is no exception. I enjoyed Dickens's book very much and I understood everything (or so I thought). And then I read this guide by Marie Kalil and I realized there was more, so much more, that had escaped me. This guide, in particular, is excellent at character analysis, the more so since most critics believe that Dickens decided to focus on plot in this work, to the detriment of character development. Marie Kalil shows this is true only to an extent. And even the more elusive characters play a very important role in the development. One final word, valid for this and other Cliffsnotes guides: I believe the more you read them, the smarter and better a reader you become, because little by little you learn to read as a writer and become more attentive to allusions, symbolisms and hints. But there's something else: they provide you with important background information you would not have been able to find out on your own and that helps put the author and book in context. In this case, it makes a difference to know at what moment in his life Dickens decided to write about the French Revolution, what led him to it, and what books he read on the subject (Thomas Carlyle). Bottom line: be humble, use Cliffsnotes (or another guide of your choice) whenever they are available, but be careful not to spoil

your reading pleasure.

Insights abound from A Tale of Two Cities . . . CliffsNotes are invaluable. The susceptibility of a people to powers unleashed to inflict penalties for disobedient behaviors are always a current phenomenon in the sociological devolution of godless societal behaviors . . . Lucy is the New Jerusalem superceding all previous civilizations, with Charles' Messianic associates and followers, redeemed by the propitiation of blood shed by redeemable sacrificial victims . . . CliffsNotes catapults the reader's gestalt to sudden comprehension . . .

I have found reason to use Cliff Notes at various times in the past years. They are always helpful. They provide background information about the author, the times he lived in and a brief overview of the book. Then they break down the book chapter by chapter and explain what is happening in each chapter to the characters. Difficult language is defined. Difficult concepts are expounded upon. What they do not do is give you the answers for a test or explain everything so clearly that you won't have to read the book. These are a help to understanding the book. This one on A Tale of two Cities was very complete and very helpful.

I purchased these cliff notes for my son who was reading this book as a school assignment. The names, terms, society, everything in Dickens' book are just too different from modern American society for a young person to comprehend very well, let alone be 'tested' on. He read both the book and the cliff notes and needed both to really understand what was going on and the point of many of the passages.

I bought this to read along with the actual book. It allowed me to understand what was going on in the book when I couldn't completely grasp the chapter. The whole last part of the book I read completely from the cliff notes as I got in a time crunch. I ended up doing well on the test. I would suggest this to anyone who needs help understanding the book. The explanations are very concise.

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