Book II, Chapter 15: “Knitting”
1. What two mysteries are resolved for us in this chapter?

2. How do you know the Mender of the roads is a revolutionary? Where does Mr. Defarge take him?

3. Why is Gaspard executed and why is the method of execution particularly cruel?

4. What do the Jacques mean when they vote to register the Marquis’ château and “all the race”?

5. What does the following metaphor say about Mr. Defarge’s plan for the Mender of the roads: “Judiciously show a dog his natural prey, if you wish him to bring it down one day.”?

Book II, Chapter 16: “Still Knitting”
1. Why does Defarge not answer to the name “Jacques” when greeted by the stranger in the wineshop?

2. What does Madame Defarge do to alert the other customers that a spy has entered the wine shop?

3. What information given by Barsad strongly affects the Defarges?

4. What is the “structure yet unbuilt” mentioned in the following passage? Why do you think Dickens makes a reference to it at the end of the chapter?
   “So much closing in about the women who sat knitting, knitting, that they their very selves were closing in around
   A structure yet unbuilt, where they were to sit knitting, knitting, counting dropping heads.”

5. How does the description of the wine shop emphasize the poverty of the residents of Saint Antoine?

Book II, Chapter 17: "One Night"
1. How will the new domestic arrangement for the Manettes resolve the problem of Charles’ love for Lucie separating her from her father?

2. What does Dr. Manette mean when he says that for his daughter to have no knowledge or memory of him would be worse than being dead?

3. Why do you think Lucie checks in on her father while he is sleeping the night before her wedding?
**Book II, Chapter 18: "Nine Days"**
1. Who is to look after Dr. Manette while the young couple is away on their honeymoon?

2. Why does the Doctor emerge from talking with the groom deathly pale?

3. How does Dickens employ Dr. Manette’s relapse to generate suspense?

4. How does Mr. Lorry ease the Doctor out of his relapse?

**Book II, Chapter 19: "An Opinion"**
1. What request of Dr. Manette, now recovered, does Mr. Lorry make and why?

2. Once again Dickens employs Lorry to relate a difficult truth: what was the first occasion? How does Lorry handle it each time?

3. Why does the doctor resist the idea of giving up his shoe making tools? What conditions does he finally agree to?

**Book II, Chapter 20: "A Plea"**
1. Why does Carton ask Darnay for his friendship and why does Lucie ask her husband to be especially patient and kind to Carton?

2. In spite of his own unhappy marriage, or perhaps because of it, how does Dickens characterize the Charles/Lucie relationship?

**Book II, Chapter 21: "Echoing Footsteps"**
1. Rather than advance the plot significantly, Dickens uses this chapter for what literary purpose?

2. What is the date of this chapter?

3. What is suggested about Defarge’s search of 105 North Tower? How is it foreshadowed earlier in the book?
4. How does Mr. Lorry’s news indicate the revolution is beginning?

5. How does Dickens intensify our disgust of Madame Defarge?

6. What is significant of the echoes the Manettes, Darnays, Carton, et al hear from the corner of Soho? How are Lucie’s and Carton’s reactions to the echoes different?

**Book II, Chapter 22: "The Sea Still Rises"
1. Briefly describe The Vengeance.

2. What is the date now?

3. Why does Defarge hate Foulon and how is Foulon’s punishment another example of *poetic justice*?

4. How do the killings by the peasants at Saint Antonine impact the lives of the poor and hungry peasants?

5. When Defarge says to his wife “At last it has come,” why does she not completely agree?

**Book II, Chapter 23: "Fire Rises"
1. What is significant to the blaze the stranger made in his pipe?

2. Whom do the four fierce figures come to represent?

3. Who is the man in the wooden shoes and what does he do?

4. Who is Monsieur Gabelle? How does he escape the people of his village?

5. Why do you think the mender of the roads and the other village people decide to light candles in all of their windows?
Book II, Chapter 24: "Drawn to the Loadstone Rock"
1. What is the significance to the chapter title?

2. What is the chronological setting of this chapter?

3. Why is Mr. Lorry traveling to France? Who is taking with him?

4. What naïve reasons does Darnay give Mr. Lorry for desiring to return to France?

5. What does Stryver think of the mysterious Marquis St. Evrémonde? How does Dickens use the letter to the Marquis to build suspense?

6. What other reasons does Darnay have, besides Gabelle’s plea, for wanting to return to France?

7. The Loadstone was a mythological rock that magnetically drew ships to it so that they would crash-- what is Charles “Loadstone Rock”?

8. Why is it ironic that Gabelle is being held in the Abbaye?

One of the key themes of A Tale of Two Cities is the role of fate—the idea that things must happen in a certain way regardless of human attempts to change them. Dickens often uses the character of Madame Defarge to represent fate and to deny the idea that individuals’ choices can make a difference in life. Her knitting links her to three Greek goddesses, known as the Fates, who were in charge of the birth, life, and death of all people. One goddess spun the thread of life, another measured it, and the third cut it. Examine the dialogue and descriptions of Madame Defarge in Chapters 15 and 16 of this section. Look for her attitudes about revenge, time, and individual choice, paying special attention to the images she uses and write an analysis here.
Themes: Use this chart to analyze how the “Big 6” themes are present in the novel thus far.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sacrifice</th>
<th>Resurrection</th>
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<th>Revolution</th>
<th>Doubles/Duality</th>
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<th>Fate/Predestination</th>
<th>Secrecy</th>
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Some of the most memorable scenes in *A Tale of Two Cities* portray mobs. In Chapter 14 of this section, an English mob follows the coffin of a dead spy. In Chapters 21 and 22, the French mob storms the Bastille and engages in a spree of revolutionary violence. When you read the chapters in this section, use the chart below to write down words and phrases Dickens uses to describe the English mob in Chapter 14. Then do the same for the French mob that storms the Bastille. How do the two mobs compare? What might Dickens be saying about the French and English?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THE ENGLISH MOB</th>
<th>THE FRENCH MOB</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Booing and hissing</td>
<td>Dusky mass of scarecrows</td>
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</table>

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