



Faculty of Arts
Department of English Language and
Literature
Novel
Second Year

Third Lecture
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* **Coincidence** is a prominent theme in Dicken's *A Tale of Two Cities*. *How far do you agree? Provide situations from the novel to support your answer.*

* Carton's and Darney's fates are entwined from their first meeting at the Old Bailey trial. See pp. 176,177

Theme of Love in Dicken's *A Tale of Two Cities*

- * Fatherly love in the case of Dr Alexander Manette and Lucie Manette p. 40,41
- * Motherly love in the case of Miss Pross (Lucie's loyal servant and protector) and Lucie Manette p. 151
- * Man/woman love in the case of Charles Darney and Lucie pp. 21-22, p.39
- * Platonic/ spiritual love in the case of Sydney Carton and Lucie P. 47 p. 143

Elaborate on each type of love, citing pieces of evidence from the novel.

*Carton's heroism

Carton's last sacrificial act proves that he is a man of moral worth. In choosing to die for the man whom Lucie loves, Carton not only enables their happiness but also ensures his spiritual rebirth.

His promise to Lucie cannot be redeemed unless he takes Darnay's place on the scaffold.

He goes to his death with no regrets. He offers his neck to La Guillotine.

*Carton's prophetic vision before he dies sets out the positive gains of sacrifice he is making. P. 143

“I see the lives for which I lay down my life, peaceful, useful, in that England which I shall see no more. I see Lucie with a son on her breast; the child is named after me. I see her father, old and bent, but well and at peace.

“ I see Lucie, an old woman, weeping for me as she remembers this day. I see her husband, when their lives are over, lying side by side in their last earthly bed, and I know each was more honored in the other's soul, than I was in the souls of both.

“I see the child who lay on her breast and who bore my name, now grown to be a man. He is winning his way in that path of life that once was mine. I see him winning it so well that my name is made famous there by the light of his. I see him, bringing a boy with golden hair to this place—and I hear him tell the child my story in a tender voice.

“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”

* Instead of dying unmourned and unloved, Sydney Carton will be honoured and revered in the hearts of Lucie and Darnay, in the hearts of their children, and in the hearts of their children's children. It is indeed a far, far better thing that he is doing than he has ever done.

Thank You
All the best!

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