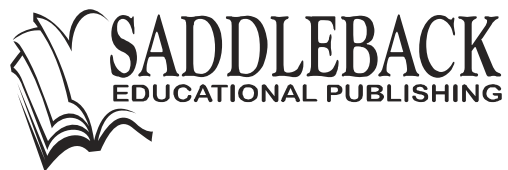


A Tale of Two Cities

CHARLES DICKENS



Saddleback's *Illustrated Classics*TM



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We are proud to welcome you to Saddleback's *Illustrated Classics*TM. Saddleback's *Illustrated Classics*TM was designed specifically for the classroom to introduce readers to many of the great classics in literature. Each text, written and adapted by teachers and researchers, has been edited using the Dale-Chall vocabulary system. In addition, much time and effort has been spent to ensure that these high-interest stories retain all of the excitement, intrigue, and adventure of the original books.

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Overview

Everyone deserves to read the best literature our language has to offer. Saddleback's *Illustrated Classics*[™] was designed to acquaint readers with the most famous stories from the world's greatest authors, while teaching essential skills. You will learn how to:

- Establish a purpose for reading
- Use prior knowledge
- Evaluate your reading
- Listen to the language as it is written
- Extend literary and language appreciation through discussion and writing activities

Reading is one of the most important skills you will ever learn. It provides the key to all kinds of information. By reading the *Illustrated Classics*[™], you will develop confidence and the self-satisfaction that comes from accomplishment—a solid foundation for any reader.

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Remember,

“Today’s readers are tomorrow’s leaders.”



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.

Saddleback's *Illustrated Classics*™

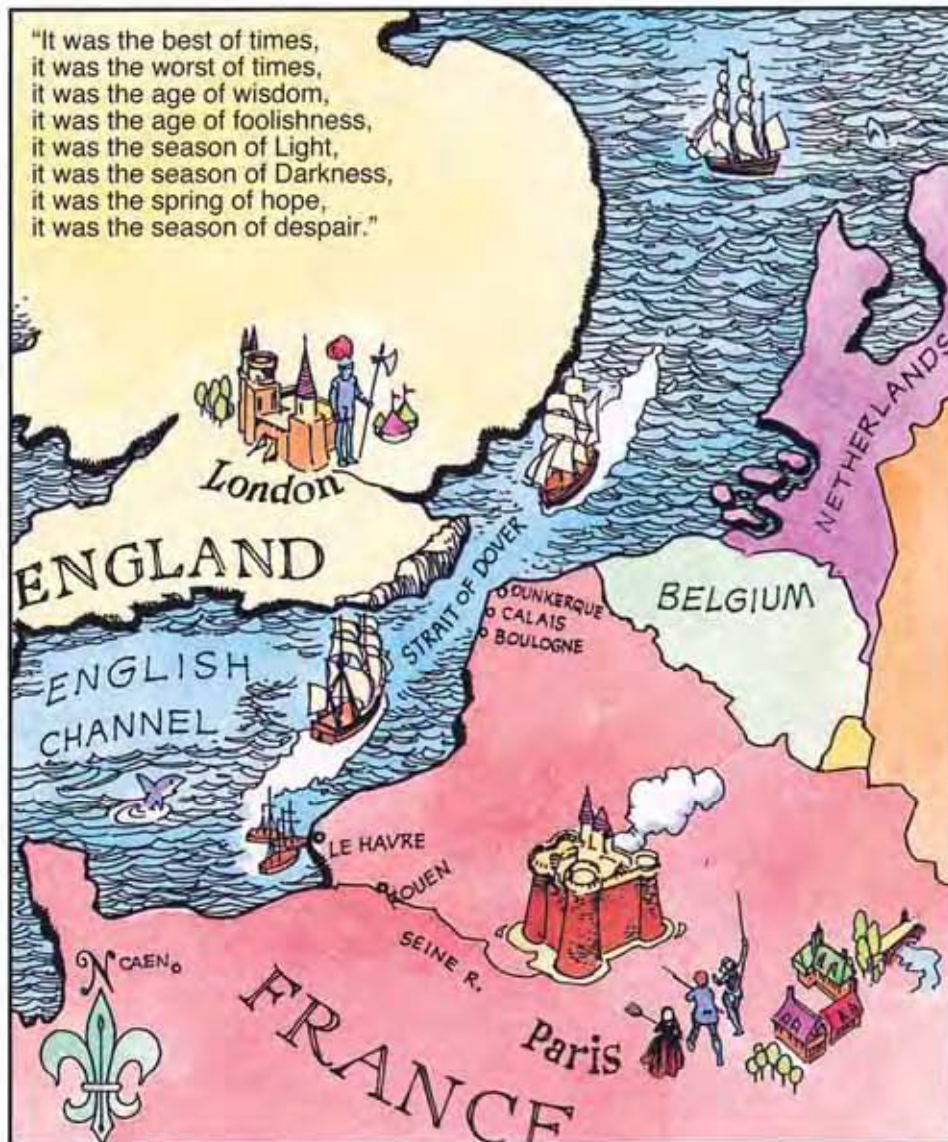
A Tale of Two Cities

CHARLES DICKENS

THE MAIN CHARACTERS



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 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.