



# MILLER SCHOOL of ALBEMARLE

## Summer Reading Assignment

**Course:** AP European History  
**Grade:** 10th  
**Teacher:** Mr. Thomas Fickley  
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**Required Book: *A Tale of Two Cities*, by Charles Dickens  
(ISBN: 978-0486406510)**

Greetings! My name is Mr. Fickley, and I will be your history teacher this year. To get you prepared for class, introduce you to a great work of literature, and get a sense of how you write, I am asking you to read Charles Dickens' classic *A Tale of Two Cities*. Please read all of the following instructions carefully.

### Assignment Details:

1. *Read the book in its entirety.* Avoid "Spark Notes", "Cliff Notes", and other such shortcuts. The purpose of this assignment is for you to spend time in a great work of European literature. Set aside some time to get into the book; once you start, you'll most likely be sucked in. The main point of this assignment is to get you to read the book.
2. Keep a journal while you read the book. Write down new words you encounter. There is some vocabulary in this book you may not be familiar with. Keep a dictionary on hand in case you get confused. Don't let unfamiliar words be an obstacle to enjoying an exciting story.
3. After reading the entire book, *write a 500-750 word (total) response to two of the three questions included below.* This means your entire response should be 500-750 words, not 1000-1500. These questions are meant to help you focus on the historical content. I will begin getting to know you with this paper: what you're interested in, how well you comprehend literature, and how polished your work is. Try to make a good first impression! These responses are due on the first day of class, typed, double spaced, in hard copy, with a heading that includes your name, the date, and the title of the class. Your vocabulary journal should be attached to the essay.
4. Though often the very act of assigning a book drains all the joy out of reading it, remember to have fun. This is an exciting book, and there is a reason why many people think it worth reading. Classics don't become such because they're boring; these books survive the test of time because they are *excellent*.

### Questions:

1. *A Tale of Two Cities* is full of conflicts between different socioeconomic classes. Which classes are portrayed in a positive light in the novel, and which ones are shown negatively? Are there any groups whose character is ambiguous? What message do you think the author

is trying to send about these different groups as they existed at the tail end of the 18th century?

2. How do the English and French characters of the novel differ from one another?
3. What were the conditions in France that lead to the revolution?