

Sketch the character of Sydney Carton

Page No.

Date

B.A. II Eng/Hons
Paper IV 2019-20

Dr. Virkumble Bihari
Asso. Professor ^{Srinivastava}
Dept. of English
R.M. College, SSM

Sydney Carton is the most influential character of the novel *A Tale of Two Cities* written by Charles Dickens. He gives a triangular shape to the love affair of Louise Manette and Charles Darnay. He has done exceptionally or exceedingly well by performing sacrifice of his own life to see that his beloved Louise enjoys a pleasant life and to wipe out the tears from her eyes. Although the novel has been written under the backdrop of French Revolution highlighting the atrocities of the poor masses who were forced to remain a mute spectator facing the corrupt practices of the monarchy without showing any dissent or opposition. Dickens has presented a very lively picture of the hardships of the people under the existing regime which is least

concerned about its responsibilities to look into the interest of the common masses.

Sydney Carton has expressed his ~~earnest~~ earnest desire to have an alliance with Lousie but his repeated assertions to join her company was turned down by Lousie since she was already having an affair with Charles Darnay, a member of the Royal Society though sympathetic enough to look into the problems of innocent masses who are subjected to untold miseries at the hands of the supporter of the monarchy. He also risks his life to join hands with Louise Manette to go to France to ensure the safe release of her father Dr. Manette who was implicated under the false crime which he had not committed.

Sydney Carton is fully aware of the growing proximity between Darnay and Lousie still he was hopeful of a favourable solution of his affair. He is fine

example of one for whom love does not mean physical association. He is more interested in platonic love which grows on mental plane and is way ahead of an affair which thrives on physical attraction. Such kind of alliance is short-lived and is bound to perish in course of time.

Towards the end of the novel he makes highest sacrifice by replacing Darnay by him in the who is incarcerated for committing the murder of an innocent fellow.

Carton was fully aware that once Darnay is sentenced the life of his beloved will be completely ruined. Therefore, he decided to set Darnay free and place him inside the prison to ensure the a safe passage to him to come out safely from the prison to the utter surprise of Louise, and to see that happiness returns to her face. Such kind of sacrifice is rare and is seldom witnessed which elevates love to the high pedestal.