

Thematic pattern of A Tale Of Two Cities

B A PART 2 ENG HONS PAPER 4 2019-20

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The idea of the composition of a novel based on the incidents leading to the outbreak of French Revolution flashed in the mind of Dickens after going through Carlyle's book French Revolution .He was deeply influenced by the lively description of the revolution presented by Carlyle which reflects his in-depth study of the circumstances which finally culminated into the outburst of the masses against the reign of terror unleashed by Monarchy. People's growing distrust over the functioning of the existing government heralded an era of the rise democratic values whereas it signed death warrant to Monarchy. Dickens was amply supported by Carlyle who provided truckloads of books to him dealing with French Revolution .In A tale of Two Cities Dickens has made a graphic presentation of the atrocities inflicted upon the masses. IT is said that his picture of French society was so subtle that it overshadowed that of the English society which experienced similar situation in the aftermath of the revolution. Order and system of society was completely disturbed. Anarchy reigned supreme. Rule of law shattered into pieces. Common people did not have the courage to raise protest against the inhuman treatment they

have been threshed into. The abject poverty people were dragged into finds expression in the incident when a trolley carrying liquor is overturned on the street and the liquor spilled over on the street. The poor fellows shut their shops and rushed to the spot to lick in as much liquor as they can without taking note of the dust particles intermingled in it. Charles Darny, The hero of the novel, travels to France to quell the mutiny caused by the trampling of the relative of Madam Defrage, one of the rebels under the wheels of the cart of his uncle. He shows solidarity with the rebels that equal treatment should be meted out to them. He also vehemently opposes his uncle's behaviour to treat common people as mere insects dancing at their tune. Although the poor fellows was made victim to the conspiracy and was imprisoned for taking least concern to the interest of the masses and join hands with the perpetrators of violence and was finally set free from the gallows by the timely action taken by Dr. Manette and his daughter Louis Manette whom Darny loved dearly. Sydney Carton also makes an exceptional sacrifice by replacing him by Darny to enable him to join the company of Louise.

In this way Dickens has successfully conveyed growing apathy of the masses towards the French regime in his novel A Tale Of Two Cities.