Project Ideas for A Tale of Two Cities

Due: Mar. 6

General Requirements:

- Your project should reflect a familiarity with the novel and its main themes.
- You must use at least 6 passages quoted from the novel somewhere in your project, either in the creative portion itself or in explanatory sections, such as the paragraphs required for the soundtrack project.
- Some of the project suggestions require graphics and/or photographs. You can draw your own graphics or use images from the Internet; for pictures, you may use real photographs that you shoot yourself or find pictures/drawings on the Internet. In Dickens’s time, sketches or drawings were used to depict scenes in novels, so you can use graphics from that era or update graphics or drawings to reflect the type of project you are doing.

Grading: This is a major grade. Projects will be evaluated on completeness, detail, focus on the novel, following directions, creativity, and excellence of effort, class presentation, and promptness. All projects should demonstrate a detailed familiarity with the novel, its characters, themes, and symbolism, and should use at least six passages quoted from the book (not necessarily dialogue).

Commonplace Book: Pick three chapters that were particularly memorable to you, plus chapter 1 in Part One and chapter 15 in Part Three. Reread the chapters, jotting down specific phrases, sentences, and paragraphs as you come across them. When you’ve finished your rereading, go back and write a brief summary of what you’ve learned/noted in rereading the chapters; include your own reflections, questions, and thoughts (6-8 sentences total). Add striking images/pictures (either hand-drawn or from the Internet; at least one per chapter) relating to the five chapters you reread and add 2-3 sentence captions telling what they mean to you and how they relate to the novel. Put your writing and pictures for each chapter on a separate page. Design a cover and put your pages in a booklet.

Alphabet Book: design an alphabet book using one letter of the alphabet per page. It may be rhyming or non-rhyming. For each letter, add illustrations and write 2-3 sentences. Give your book a cover and illustrate it. It is particularly important you demonstrate that you have an understanding of the major events and themes of the novel as well as relationships between the characters. For example: G is for Guillotine (what else?)

A Tale of Two Cities Soundtrack: Create a soundtrack for the novel, choosing or composing 6 songs (ONE can be an instrumental). The songs must represent the main themes, moods, relationships, or events in the novel in some way. Create a CD insert with appropriate artwork, artist information, dedications, and a booklet that includes lyrics and a paragraph of 3-5 sentences for each song explaining how and why each relates to the book. Your insert will be larger than normally found in a CD. You may burn the songs onto a CD if you would like, but it is not required. Please do provide a CD copy of the instrumental song if you use one.

Diary: create a booklet of excerpts from the journal/diary of one of the main characters. In that character’s voice (first person), you will create at least six dated original entries based on what is happening at the time. This will allow you (as that character) to comment on the major events of the plot. The entries should be full paragraphs of 6-8 sentences, and they must cover the scope of the novel from the time of the character’s first involvement in the story to the end. You MUST include the following:

- The first significant appearance of the character in the story
- Significant experiences that your character has with other characters
- Important events that happen to the character
- Any physical/psychological changes in the character
- Where the character leaves the story

A more up-to-date variation of this project would be to create a blog with at least six entries, including comments by other characters.
Project Ideas for *A Tale of Two Cities*  

**Facebook Page:** create a Facebook page (on paper, not a real one) for one of the main characters of the novel. Include the standard components of a Facebook page such as cover and profile “photos,” biographical info, friends, photos, likes, and places. Write eight to ten status postings relating to the themes and events of the novel with responses from other characters. This can be done on a poster or large sheet of paper (available from Mrs. K).

**A Tale of Two Cities Graphic Novel:** create a short graphic novel or comic book that depicts a narrative arc of the novel, such as Part Three. The panels in your graphic/comic book should include pictures, narration, and dialogue to advance the plot. The result should be 10-20 pages of graphics with text and dialogue; the graphics and text should reveal an understanding of two or more themes of the novel.

**A Tale of Two Cities People Magazine:** create a spread of at least three articles featuring the main characters with “photographs” in People Magazine format with story-related advertisements. At least one article should be news-related, focusing on historical events of the novel and the effects on those events on the characters.

**A Tale of Two Cities London Times or Paris Gazette:** design a four-page section from a newspaper, depicting some of the events of Part Three and featuring the main characters of the novel. Pages must be at least copier paper size. Text may be handwritten in ink or typed. Your pages should include the following:

- A banner headline & title of the newspaper
- At least two “photographs” with captions
- The lead story (at least 300 words) and at least two related side bar stories
- One feature story (human interest rather than news)
- An editorial column on an issue pertaining to the events of the novel
- Other newspaper features such as an advice column, gossip column, classified ads, horoscope
- At least one large (1/4 page) advertisement that is story-related

**A Tale of Two Cities in the Computer Age:** Instead of writing notes and letters, what if the characters of the novel had been able to send email? Write at least six exchanges of email (one exchange is an email of a short paragraph or two by one character with a response from one or more other characters. The entries should go beyond just a discussion of plot; the messages should reflect the characters’ concerns with issues related to major themes of the novel.

**A Tale of Two Cities Accordion Book:** get the directions (and paper) from Class Notes to do an accordion book on the novel. There are examples in class (done on other novels) for you to look at. The accordion book should have a balance of drawing and text. All passages and commentary should be typed in 10-point font and pasted on the paper.

A project idea of your own: discuss your idea and get permission from the teacher before starting a project idea that is not on this list.