

A Tale of Two Cities

Charles Dickens

What makes the knitting more threatening than an ordinary written list?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Madame Defarge's register
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	Book II, Chapter XV · Knitting
START	After a gloomy silence, the first Jacques said, “Good! You have acted and recounted faithfully.
END	than to erase one letter of his name or crimes from the knitted register of Madame Defarge.
PASSAGE ID	sec-ttc-03

THE MOVE

Turn an ordinary object into a system of power

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Madame Defarge’s knitting looks domestic and harmless, yet it stores names, judgments, and future consequences in a code others cannot easily read. The object becomes threatening because record-keeping, secrecy, and collective memory are concentrated in something ordinary.

MARK

Circle every detail that makes the knitting seem ordinary. Underline the lines that reveal what information it carries and who can interpret it. Put a star beside the detail that turns the object from craft into weapon.

NOTICE

- Why is a coded knitted register harder to challenge or destroy than an ordinary written list?
- Who has access to the meaning of the knitting, and who does not?
- How does secrecy increase Madame Defarge's power over people who may not even know they have been recorded?

THINK

Answer provisionally: What makes the knitting more threatening than an ordinary written list? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: What makes the knitting more threatening than an ordinary written list? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	The knitting is more threatening because it is a secret, durable record embedded in an ordinary social act. It stores names and judgments while looking harmless, which lets Madame Defarge carry political memory and future punishment in public without exposing the system.
EVIDENCE	Use the contrast between the domestic appearance of knitting and its coded function as a register. Strong answers explain who can read it, who cannot, and why secrecy increases power.
WATCH FOR	Do not treat the knitting as scary merely because the reader knows Madame Defarge is dangerous. Explain how the object's ordinary form makes the system more effective.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

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END ANCHOR	than to erase one letter of his name or crimes from the knitted register of Madame Defarge.

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OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK - Circle every detail that makes the knitting seem ordinary. Underline the lines that reveal what information it carries and who can interpret it. Put a star beside the detail that turns the object from craft into weapon.
2. NOTICE - Why is a coded knitted register harder to challenge or destroy than an ordinary written list? Who has access to the meaning of the knitting, and who does not? How does secrecy increase Madame Defarge’s power over people who may not even know they have been recorded?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: What makes the knitting more threatening than an ordinary written list?
4. WRITE - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.