

**II.5-6** The Jackal  
Hundreds of People

Student Name  
*A Tale of Two Cities*

**Summary**  
Chapter 5:  
The Jackal

Carton's brilliance and dissoluteness are revealed in a scene between Sydney and Stryver. Carton is revealed as the brains behind the pompous lawyer, Stryver.

Chapter 6:  
Hundreds of  
people

At the Manettes' house, Jarvis Lorry and Miss Pross discuss Dr. Manette's occasional relapses and Lucie's numerous suitors, all deemed unworthy of her by the dotting Miss Pross. Darnay and Carton call on Lucie and her father. As a storm breaks late in the evening, Carton moodily predicts that a great crowd is bearing down on all their lives.

**Characters:**  
Mr. Stryver

**Stryver:** Stryver is a suitor to Lucie Manette. Although he is successful, it is obvious to his colleagues that, "he had not the faculty of extracting the essence from a heap of statements..." (101).

Sydney Carton

**Carton:** Carton is a brilliant lawyer whose drinking and lack of ambition make him content to play the "jackal" to Stryver's "lion."

**Literary Devices:**  
Irony

Stryver, "...had not that faculty of extracting the essence from a heap of statements..." (101), and Stryver continues to, "hew away the lower staves of the ladder on which he mounted" (100), yet he is ironically compared to a lion. It is Sydney Carton who does the work for which Stryver is credited.

Dickens mocks the motif of **doubles** and the thematic idea of **sacrifice** by showing Solomon Pross, Miss Pross's brother, as a "virtuous" character, when he has actually deserted her and taken with him all of her money. Keep your eye out for our encounter with S. Pross personally.

**Motifs:**  
Humans as  
animals

**Humans as animals:** Carton is often seen returning home, "like a dissipated cat," after a night of heavy drinking. He is compared to a jackal.

Doubles

**Doubles:** Carton's remarks about Darnay, "I thought he was rather a handsome fellow, and I thought I should have been much the same sort of fellow, if I had had any luck" (102), illustrate their similarity. That Carton believes he had no luck emphasizes the thematic idea of **Fate**.

The tranquility of the courtyard in the back of the Manette's house will be countered by the violence (later in the novel)

of a Parisian courtyard.

Light and Dark

**Light and dark:** Lucie is again described as the, “golden-haired doll” (106).

“...the air was cold and sad, the dull sky overcast, the river dark and dim, the whole scene like a lifeless desert” (106).

**Historical References:**

Dickens’s manuscript indicates that Carton’s original first name was “Dick” rather than Sydney, which would have emphasized the parallels between Charles Darnay and Dick Carton, in giving them reversed initials.

**Themes and Issues:**

Fate

**Fate:** Carton and Styver discuss, humorously, the ranks they have each “fallen into.” Stryver believes that he has risen in rank, while Carton believes they have each “fallen into” their ranks.

Identity

**Identity:** Carton sees himself: “Waste forces within him, and a desert all around, this man stood still on his way across a silent terrace, and saw for a moment, lying in the wilderness before him, a mirage of honorable ambition, self-denial, and perseverance” (106).

Sacrifice

**Sacrifice:** Carton remembers school and says, “Even then, I did exercises for other boys, and seldom did my own” (104).

**Glossary:**

Dissipated

**Dissipated:** characterized as being wasted.

Apostrophize

**Apostrophize:** to speak to someone/something who isn’t there, usually as a digression.