

Colleen Hall  
February 14, 2002  
Tricoteuses

Madame Defarge is an allusion to the revolutionary women who would sit in front of the guillotine and knit. They were eventually run out of Paris (“Discovering” n.pag.). Thomas Carlyle also refers to these women in his history, the history that Dickens used to write *A Tale of Two Cities* (“Discovering” n.pag.). Madame Defarge, famous for her sinister knitting, is also associated with Lady Macbeth, particularly because of her ferocious nature, that allows her to coolly knit while she prepares for the deaths of others (Doe 28).

#### Works Cited

- Discovering Dickens: A Community Reading Project. “A Tale Of Two Cities.” <[http://Dickens.Stanford.edu/archive/tale/issue15\\_gloss2.htm](http://Dickens.Stanford.edu/archive/tale/issue15_gloss2.htm)> (3 February 2005)
- Doe, Amanda. The Scary and Creepy Madame Defarge. Boston: Oxford University Press, 2005.