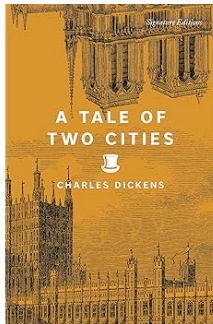




**English IV: 12th Grade
Summer Reading Guidelines 2026**

Your summer reading is *A Tale of Two Cities* by British novelist Charles Dickens. **You must purchase the Union Square & Co. (Signature Classics) edition** which looks like this:



ISBN-13: **978-1435171480**

(It's crucial that you buy this edition because I will be referring to specific pages, and we cannot spare the time it would take for each of us to locate the same page in a variety of editions!)

Since this year will prepare you for university-level classes, you will need to increase your practice of “close reading,” which involves reading with a pen in hand. By now you should be well equipped to determine how an author uses literary devices such as symbolism, conflict, parallel structure, setting, and figurative language to communicate

the theme(s) of his work.

While reading this novel, you should annotate (highlight and make notes in the margins of your book) for the following:

- words and phrases that stand out to you; **circle unfamiliar vocabulary**
- important scenes or key sections of dialogue
- character descriptions, motivations, and flaws
- key conflicts that characters face
- sections that are confusing for you and any questions you have
- inferences you make while reading
- connections you make to other texts, films, tv shows, or to your own life
- literary devices (flashbacks, foreshadowing, symbols, and irony)
- figurative language (allusions, alliteration, metaphors, similes, etc.)

On Thursday, August 13th, you will have a quiz that will cover the plot of this novel, and on the following Thursday, August 20th, you will have a test that will cover the class discussion about this novel. You will not be allowed to use notes or the book itself on either test. I encourage you to review your annotations to prepare for the test. **The Summer Reading Compliance form will also be due on the 20th and will count for 11 points of your test grade.**

Five bonus points will be awarded to the test for a list of at least 25 vocabulary words and their definitions that come from this novel; due August 13th. This assignment is, of course, optional, but these words are great preparation if you are planning on taking another run at the ACT or SAT.

I look forward to sharing your senior year with you,

Mrs. Slimp