

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

Having read the novel A Tale of Two Cities, the present writer finds out that the author, Charles Dickens, has successfully conveyed the theme, which is ‘Love can make one sacrifice oneself for the people one loves.’ The present writer has analysed the theme of the novel through the major characters, Charles Darnay, Sydney Carton and Dr. Manette.

The major characters decide to sacrifice their lives for the same woman, Lucie Manette. Charles Darnay is successful in making Lucie happy by marrying her and showing that he seriously loves her. Charles also succeeds in making Dr. Manette, Lucie’s father, trust him and give his blessings to Charles to marry Lucie.

Different from Charles, Sydney’s love for Lucie is rejected because Lucie does not love him. But Sydney does not give up. Sydney uses a different way to show his love for Lucie. He promises that he will sacrifice his life for Lucie and the people that she loves. Sydney does this because he wants to make Lucie happy.

Dr. Manette also has his own ways to show his love for Lucie. For Lucie's happiness, Dr. Manette accepts Charles Darnay as his son-in-law, although he knows that Charles is the nephew of Marquis Evremonde, one of the men who have made him suffer in the past. Dr. Manette even bears reliving his terrible past when he finds out that Charles is an Evremonde. However, this fact does not change his fondness for Charles and he still trusts Charles.

Charles Darnay not only sacrifices himself for Lucie. He also puts his life in danger for his former servant. He is even willing to accept a death sentence as a consequence of saving Gabelle.

The three major characters in this novel have their own endings. Dr. Manette, recovers from his mental relapse after reliving his imprisonment in the Bastille. He is also happy because he manages to bring happiness for his daughter, Lucie. For Dr. Manette, Lucie's happiness is everything. Charles Darnay is finally united with Lucie. They can live happily because of Sydney's sacrifice. On the other hand, Sydney dies because he has become Charles' replacement in the guillotine.

In this novel, the present writer believes that Charles Darnay, Sydney Carton and Dr. Manette have the same purpose in their life, which is to bring happiness for the person that they love, Lucie. Their sacrifices play an important role in the story. From here, the present writer sees that love does not only involve taking and giving. Sacrifice is also important to show one's love to bring happiness to the people that one loves. Moreover, from Sydney Carton's sacrifice, the present writer can see that love should not be possessive.

The present writer concludes that this novel is an excellent work of Charles Dickens, as he is successful in showing the sacrifices of the three different people for one purpose, the happiness for someone they love. Dickens wants to show that the love of a father for his daughter is different from the love of a man for a woman. A father's love for his daughter is given wholeheartedly. He does not expect anything in return. He only wants to see his daughter happy. The love of a man for a woman is different. Sometimes the man becomes blind because of his love. He will give anything, even sacrificing his life for the woman he loves. He will also protect the woman from anything that will hurt her. A man usually expects the woman he loves to return his love. Nonetheless, in A Tale of Two Cities, Sydney Carton cannot get his love because Lucie chooses Charles to be her husband. From this the present writer sees that a man is blind because of his love. He will do anything to make the woman he loves happy, even sacrificing his life.

The novel gives a message to the readers that sacrifice is one of the important things to make one's loved ones happy. Moreover, the present writer believes that one should appreciate love.