In the howling universe of passion and contention that seemed to encompass this grim old officer conspicuous in his grey coat and red decoration, there was but one quite steady figure, and that was a woman’s. ‘See, there is my husband!’ she cried, pointing him out. ‘See Defarge!’ She stood immovable close to the grim old officer, and remained immovable close to him; remained immovable close to him through the streets, as Defarge and the rest bore him along; remained immovable close to him when he was got near his destination, and began to be struck at from behind; remained immovable close to him when the long-gathering rain of stabs and blows fell heavy; was so close to him when he dropped dead under it, that, suddenly animated, she put her foot upon his neck, and with her cruel knife—long ready—hewed off his head.

Glossary:

*steady - firmly held
**grim - unpleasant
***bore - to support the weight of someone
****struck - past tense of strike
*****stabs - to push a knife or other sharp object into someone or something
******hewed - cut
Worksheet Tasks on *A Tale of Two Cities*

**Read the text and answer the questions**

1. Who are the main characters described in the text?

________________________________________________________________________

2. What is happening in this scene depicted in the text? Why?

________________________________________________________________________

3. What is the woman's behavior like in the text?

________________________________________________________________________

**Language Work**

1. What words does Charles Dickens use in the text to give the impression of violence and create an atmosphere of riot and mob?

________________________________________________________________________

2. Why does Charles Dickens repeat the words *remained immovable* throughout the text when he refers to Mme Defarge?

________________________________________________________________________

3. Re-read the text and write down the words and expressions from the text with a violent meaning: eg *to be struck*

________________________________________________________________________

This page can be photocopied for use in class.
Worksheet Tasks on *A Tale of Two Cities*

Discuss these questions in pairs or small groups

1. Have you read *A Tale of Two Cities*? Would you like to read it after reading this extract?
2. Do you think that violent behavior is justified in any context?
3. Do you think that the Revolutionaries were morally justified in killing so many people in such violent ways?
4. Do you agree with the following saying: *Two wrongs don’t make a right.*

Follow-up Activity

*The Marsellaise*, the French National Anthem, has remained untouched since it was composed in 1792. It is a war song that talks about Freedom. Write a short poem about your opinion or definition of Freedom. Choose from the words and expressions in the box or write your own words. Then read the poem to your partner.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Justice</th>
<th>Respect</th>
<th>Sharing</th>
<th>Giving</th>
<th>Fairness</th>
<th>Democracy</th>
<th>Equality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Having the same Rights</td>
<td>Being Equal</td>
<td>Having the same status</td>
<td>Peace</td>
<td>Love</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Happiness</td>
<td>Happy</td>
<td>Equal</td>
<td>Identity</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>Successful</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Freedom is** __________________________

( noun/noun phrase)

**Freedom gives** __________________________

(noun)

**Freedom means** __________________________

(noun/noun phrase)

**Freedom makes us feel** __________________________

(adjective)