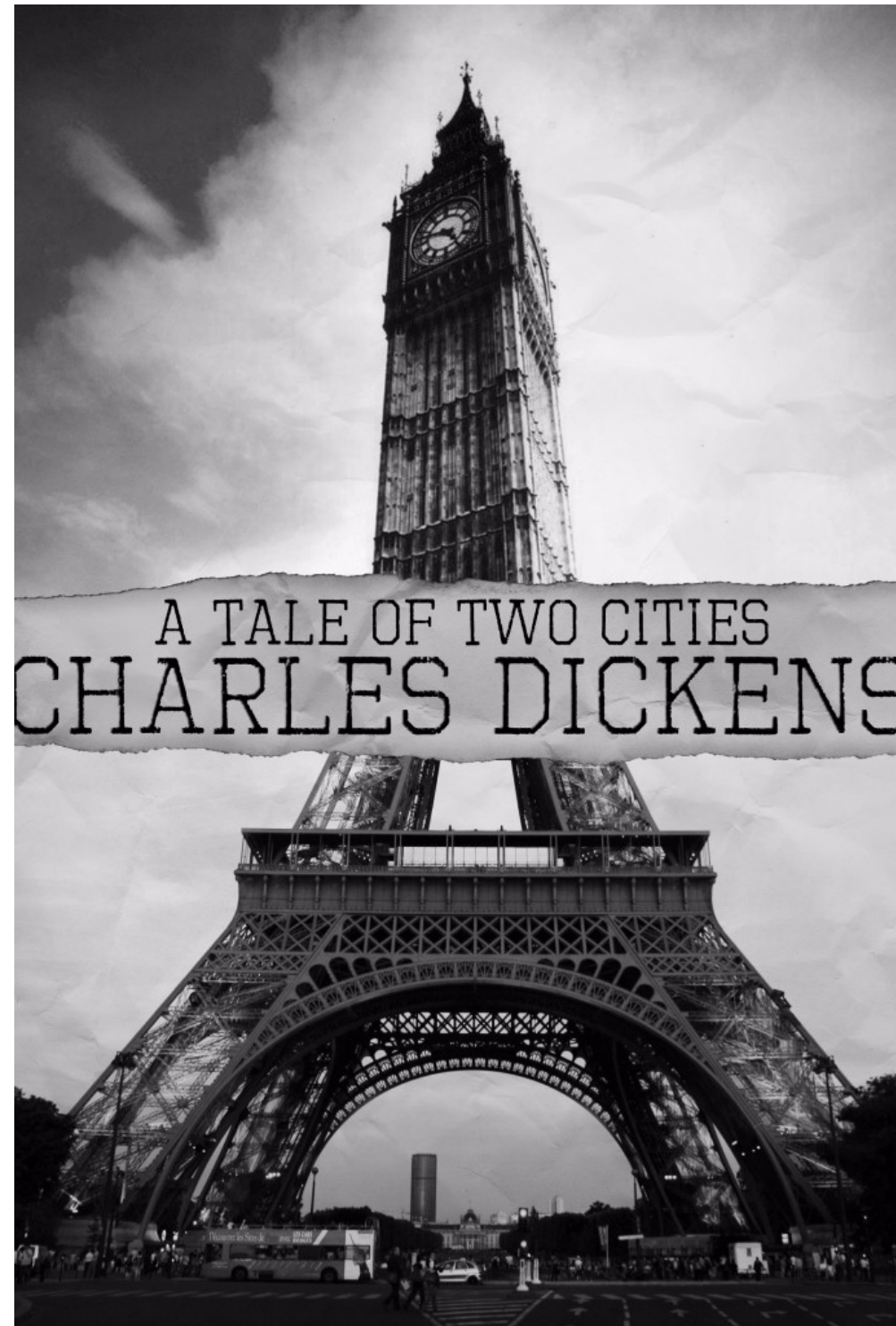# Tale of two cities
CHARLES DICKENS

Extract from a literary masterpiece

Objectives: Exploitation of the incipit of classical literature

Support: incipit de The tale of two cities

Act n°1 : inference grid about the picture

Name of the author	
name of the book	
Places of the photo assembly	
Gathered landmarks	
Hypothesys: places of the plot	

Act n°1 : inference grid about the picture

Name of the author	Charles Dickens
name of the book	A tale of two cities
Places of the photo assembly	London and Paris
Gathered landmarks	Big ben and the Eiffel Tower
Hypothesys: places of the plot and epoch	Paris & London centuries ago

Act n° 2 : describe the picture

- On the picture I can see the tittle of a literature masterpiece which is a "Tale of two cities" and its author's name which is Charles Dickens. On the background I notice an assembly photo composed of two famous landmarks which are located in Paris and London. More precisely, Big ben is put on the foot of the Eifel Tower which symbolizes that the plot of the novel takes place in both capital cities

Act n° 3 read listen the audio record

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sxIIrbxNUc8

C:\Users\patricia\Documents\tale of the two cities\Charles Dickens - It Was The Best Of Times, It Was The Worst.mp4

incipit

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way—in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only.

Act n° 4 note the antonyms used in the incipit in the following grid and give their positive or negative connotation

Positive connotation	Negative connotation

Act n° 4 note the antonyms used in the incipit in the following grid and give their positive or negative connotation

Positive connotation	Negative connotation
The best	The worst
Age of wisdom	Age of foolishness
Epoch of belief	Epoch of incredulity
Season of light	Season of darkness
Spring of hope	Winter of despair
Everything before us	Nothing before us
Direct to heaven	Direct the other way (hell)
good	evil

Act n° 5: difficult vocabulary: find the French words for

- Wisdom
- Epoch
- Belief
- Heaven
- Hell
- Evil

Act n° 5: difficult vocabulary: find the French words for

- Wisdom→ sagesse
- Epoch → époque
- Belief → croyance
- Heaven → paradis
- Hell → enfer
- Evil → mal

Act n°6: Find some English synonymous to the following words

The best		hope	
The worst		despair	
wisdom		everything	
foolishness		nothing	
belief		Even	
incredulity		hell	
light		good	
darkness		evil	

Act n°6: Find some English synonymous to the following words

The best	The most excellent	hope	expectancy
The worst	The least excellent	despair	gloom
wisdom	discernment	everything	The whole
foolishness	madness	nothing	Nought (0)
belief	Trust, faith	heaven	paradise
incredulity	doubt	hell	inferno
light	Glow, illumination	good	Ethical, moral
darkness	shadow	evil	bad

Act n° 6: the repeated expression:" " it was"

Number of uses	
Name of the rhetoric process	
Used tense	
Effect given	
Other famous uses of the process	

Act n° 6: the repeated expression:" " it was"

Number of uses	10 Times
Name of the rhetoric form	ANAPHORA
Used tense	Preterit: locates the action in a revolute past
Effect given	Insists with the repetition on the topic of the text
Other famous uses of the form	- Ecclésiaste 3.1-15(XIIth c BC) - Martin Luther King "I have a dream" - Barack Obama : " yes we can "

Act n°7: explain what is the given effect

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- Plays on oppositions and anaphoras

- Plays on two cities

- Plays on two concepts: a manichean vision of the times: the best/the worst, light/darkness

- Extreme duality given by the last words of the paragraph:" for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only".

Intermediaite Task

- Domino game : gather the antonyms

ACT N°8 : GIVE TITLES TO THE PARTS OF THE TEXT

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- - FIRST PART: from the beginning to "other way": OPPOSITIONS OF THE PAST

- - SECOND PART: "in short"--→ "evil": A PAMPLET ABOUT THE POLITICAL REGIME

- - THIRD PART: "in the superlative"-→" only" : A WORLD OF EXCESS

FINAL TASK

Using the same literary process as Dickens :Used (anaphoras and antonyms)

- describe your teenage or the time
of your exams
- second possibility: write some sentences
which follow the text