

# A tale of two cities- dickens writing styles

[People](#), [Charles Dickens](#)



As a reaction to the idealism of the Romantics, realism became a common writing style of the nineteenth century. Idealism is the envisioning of things in an ideal form, and realism is the representation in art or literature of objects, actions, or social conditions as they actually are. Charles Dickens, an English writer, used realism in his works such as *A Tale Of Two Cities*.

Dickens' realistic writing style depicted and criticized social injustice in specific scenes throughout the novel. " The wine was red wine, and had stained the ground of the narrow street in the suburb of Saint Antoine, in Paris, where it was spilled. " This quotation refers to the scene in which a wine cask fell in the streets of Saint Antoine, a poor city outside of Paris, France. After the wine cask fell, the people of the street rushed over to the wine to scoop up as much as possible. The women of Saint Antoine even put wine into the mouths of their children. The people of Saint Antoine were very poor, and would resort to anything for food. A man in the street dipped his finger into the wine and wrote the word, " blood, " on a wall to express the amount of violence that had taken place. This scene is an example of realism because it was an accurate depiction of the social conditions. Unlike idealism or romanticism, the truth about society was presented without exaggeration or idealization. The suffering of the peasants foreshadows the revolts that would later occur during the French Revolution. Another example of realism in *A Tale of Two Cities* is used during the storming of the Bastille, a prison in Paris. In this scene, a mob storms the Bastille, and the Defarges serve as leaders of the mob. Charles Dickens sets the mood of the scene by using " flashing weapons, blazing torches, smoking waggon-loads of wet straw, hard work at neighbouring barricades in all directions, shrieks, volleys,

execrations, bravery without stint, boom, smash and rattle, and the furious sounding of the living sea, " in his description. The blood from the battle made its way to the streets of Saint Antoine, where the wine cask fell and foreshadowed events to come in the future. The wine on the clothing of the people in Saint Antoine symbolizes the blood that would be on the people at the storming of the Bastille. Realism is used in this scene because the violence that Dickens portrayed was an actual part of the storming of the Bastille. He gave a factual description of the lives of peasants in France during the time of the Revolution. Charles Dickens often used realism so empathy could be felt for the peasants. It is likely that he did this because of the poverty he experienced as a child. Dickens's writing does not enhance or change historical events, but includes realistic descriptions in various scenes throughout the novel, A Tale of Two Cities.