

Short note on Madame Defarge's Knitting

Writer: Charles Dickens | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

Short note on Madame Defarge's Knitting

In The novel "[A Tale of Two Cities](#)" (1859) by [Charles Dickens](#) (1812-1870), Madame Defarge's Knitting is a significant event. Her knitting is a complex hobby and a powerful symbol. It is a symbolic representation of her role as a vengeful revolutionary. It refers to themes of revenge, fate, the outcomes of actions, and the relentless pursuit of justice during the turbulent times of the French Revolution.

[Madame Defarge](#) is known for her careful and in her knitting. As a woman revolutionary leader, she and her fellow men use their knitting to collect the names of those condemned to death by the revolutionary tribunal. Each stitch in her knitting represents a life to be taken. She takes great pleasure in exacting revenge on the aristocracy who have oppressed and tortured the ordinary people for so long.

The knitting also symbolizes the idea that revolution is a ruthless force that cannot be stopped. Just as Madame Defarge's knitting needles never stop. The revolutionaries are determined to continue their quest for justice no matter the cost. It is a transparent document that the mass revolution is out of control. It leads to widespread chaos and violence.

Madame Defarge's knitting also warns the reader about the dangers of unchecked anger. Her pursuit of revenge ultimately leads to her own downfall. She becomes destroyed by her desire for vengeance.

In short, Madame Defarge's knitting symbolizes revenge's destructive power and the chaos of the French Revolution. It symbolizes the destruction of uncontrolled anger that destroys individuals and societies.