Aim: How does Dickens’s narration effectively establish mood?

Directions: In your group, work with your partners to identify and isolate narration that...

- corresponds with your assigned category
- creates a specific mood

Be sure to use direct quotations with proper citations.
- Example: (l, 2, _pg#_)

I, 2 “The Mail”
Group 1: Old pp. 8 to 9 (top) and New p. 12 - Travel on the Dover road

Mood = gloomy, dreary, arduous, and mysterious

Textual evidence:
- “With drooping heads and tremulous tails, they mashed their way through the thick mud...” (I, 2, 12).
- “… because the hill, and the harness, and the mud, and the mail, were all so heavy, that the horses had three times already come to a stop…” (I, 2, 12).
- “There was a steaming mist in all the hollows, and it had roamed in its forlornness up the hill, like an evil spirit, seeking rest and finding none” (I, 2, 12-13).
- “[The fog] was dense enough to shut out everything from the light of the coach-lamps but these its own workings, and few yards to road; and the reek of the labouring horses steamed into it, as if they had made it all” (I, 2, 13).
Group 2: Old p. 9 mid. para. and New pp. 12 bot.-13 top

- The atmosphere

Mood = eerie, unsettling, fearful, secluded

Textual evidence:

- “There was a steaming mist in all the hollows, and it had roamed in its forlornness up the hill, like an evil spirit, seeking rest and finding none” (I, 2, 12).
- “A clammy and intensely cold mist, it made its slow way through the air in ripples that visibly followed and overspread one another, as the waves of an unwholesome sea might do” (I, 2, 12).
- “The coach lumbered on again, with heavier wreaths of mist closing round it as it began the descent” (I, 2, 13).
- “Jerry, left alone, in the mist and darkness dismounted meanwhile, not only to ease his spent horse, but to white the mud from his face” (I, 2, 18).
Group 3: Old pp. 9 bot. to 10 top and New p. 13 mid. para. - The Travelers

Mood = suspicious, tense, fearful

Textual evidence:

- “All three were wrapped to the cheek-bones and over the ears, and wore jack-boots” (I, 2, 9).
- “Not one of the three could have said, from anything he saw, what either of the other two was like; and each was hidden under almost as many wrappers from eyes of the mind, as from eyes of the body, of his two companions” (I, 2, 9).
- “The Dover mail was in its usual genial position that the guard suspected the passengers, the passengers suspected one another and the guard, they all suspected everybody else...” (I, 2, 10).
An encounter on the road

Mood = distrustful/suspicious, anxious, dark, uneasy

Textual evidence:

- “Yo there! Stand! I shall fire!” (I, 2,11).
- “The stillness consequent on the cessation of the rumbling and labouring of the coach, added to the stillness of the night, made it very quiet indeed. The panting of the horses communicated a tremulous motion to the coach, as if it were in a state of agitation. The hearts of the passengers beat loud enough perhaps to be heard; but at any rate, the quiet pause was audibly expressive of people of breath, and holding the breath, and having the pulses quickened by expectation” (I, 2,11).
- “‘Keep where you are,’ the guard called to the voice in the mist, ‘because, if I should make a mistake, it could never be set right in your lifetime’” (I, 2,12).
- “Is that the Dover mail? Never you mind what it is!...What are you?” (I, 2,15).
Group 5: Old p. 12-14 and New pp. 16 mid.-19 - An important message

Mood = confused, suspicious, and mysterious

Textual evidence:

- He opened it in the light of the coach-lamp on that side, and read -- first to himself and then aloud: “‘Wait at Dover for mam’selle.’ It's not long, you see, guard. Jerry, say that my answer was *RECALLED TO LIFE*. Take that message back, and they will know that I received this, as well as if I wrote. Make the best of your way. Good night” (I, 2, 17).

- “Did you hear the message?”
  “I did, Joe. What did you make of it Tom?”
  “Nothing at all, Joe” (I, 2, 18).

- “That’s a Blazing strange message. Much of that wouldn’t do for you, Jerry! I say, Jerry! You’d be in a Blazing bad way, if recalling to life was to come into fashion, Jerry!” (I,2,14).
Mr. Lorry’s Travels

The shortest distance between England and France lies between the cities of Dover and Calais. These locations, therefore, are busy port towns, where travel and commerce regularly occur. Mr. Lorry, in chapter 2, is headed to Dover on the Dover road from London. Why might he be traveling to France?
Dickens’s narrative imagery creates mood

One of the most prominent features of Dickens’s writing is his ability to craft vivid imagery which, in turn, impacts the reader’s understanding of his work. What mood is Dickens attempting to create in I, 2?

Use the mood created by Dickens to help you to predict what may occur in the future of the plot.