Aim: How can we use context clues to better understand Mr. Jarvis Lorry while coming closer to discovering the nature of his secret mission?
Directions

With your partner, find the two slides that match your color.

1. Read to excerpt from the text on the first slide.
2. Use the highlighter tool to emphasize important information about Mr. Lorry’s character.
3. On the second slide, explain Dickens’s characterization of Mr. Lorry. Type in bulleted form.
4. Proofread your work for spelling and grammatical errors.

Note: Students using the chat feature will receive a zero classwork grade.
The coffee-room had no other occupant, than the gentleman in brown. His breakfasttable was drawn before the fire, and as he sat, with its light shining on him, waiting for the meal, he sat so still, that he might have been sitting for his portrait.

Very orderly and methodical he looked, with a hand on each knee, and a loud watch ticking a sonorous sermon under his flapped waist-coat, as though it pitted its gravity and longevity against the levity and evanescence of the brisk fire. He had a good leg, and was a little vain of it, for his brown stockings fitted sleek and close, and were of a fine texture; his shoes and buckles, too, though plain, were trim. He wore an odd little sleek crisp flaxen wig, setting very close to his head; which wig, it is to be presumed, was made of hair, but which looked far more as though it were spun from filaments of silk or glass.
Mr. Lorry’s physical appearance (22)

- He is “the gentleman in brown.”
- He looks “orderly and methodical” and is sitting very still.
  - The loud watch ticking shows he is punctual and keeps to a schedule.
- He is a little vain because he is showing off his good leg; he must walk often to have such toned legs.
- His clothing is made of a “fine texture” and his wig appears “as though it were spun from filaments of silk or glass” very expensive-looking
  - He cares about his appearance and earns a good salary to afford such finery.
- His shoes were plain but they were “trim.”
  - The shoes being “trim” suggest they are not fancy. Is this because Lorry walks often and doesn’t want to wear out good shoes, or is this to show that his salary isn’t as high as we previously thought?
His linen, though not of a fineness in accordance with his stockings, was as white as the
tops of the waves that broke upon the neighbouring beach, or the specks of sail that glinted
in the sunlight far at sea. A face habitually suppressed and quieted, was still lighted up
under the quaint wig by a pair of moist bright eyes that it must have cost their owner, in
years gone by, some pains to drill to the composed and reserved expression of Tellson’s
Bank. He had a healthy colour in his cheeks, and his face, though lined, bore few traces of
anxiety. But, perhaps the confidential bachelor clerks in Tellson’s Bank were principally
occupied with the cares of other people; and perhaps second-hand cares, like second-hand
clothes, come easily off and on.
Mr. Lorry’s physical appearance (Cont. from 22-3)

- His outfit is clean and crisp, yet not all of it is made from fine materials.
- His face, “suppressed and quieted,” doesn’t show his emotions.
- He is in good shape because there is a “healthy colour in his cheeks,” and he is an older gentleman: “...his face, though lined, bore few traces of anxiety.”
  - “Few traces of anxiety” indicates he doesn’t lead a stressful life.
- He is a positive, open-minded man, indicated by his “pair of moist bright eyes.”
- He’s occupied with other people’s business because he has no family of his own; he is a “confidential bachelor.” Lorry is dedicated to his work for Tellson’s.
“I wish accommodation prepared for a young lady who may come here at any time to-day. She may ask for Mr. Jarvis Lorry, or she may only ask for a gentleman from Tellson’s Bank. Please to let me know.”

“Yes, sir. Tellson’s Bank in London, sir?”

“Yes.”

“Yes, sir. We have oftentimes the honour to entertain your gentlemen in their travelling backwards and forwards betwixt London and Paris, sir. A vast deal of travelling, sir, in Tellson and Company’s House.”

“Yes. We are quite a French House, as well as an English one.”

“Yes, sir. Not much in the habit of such travelling yourself, I think, sir?”

“Not of late years. It is fifteen years since we—since I—came last from France.”

“Indeed, sir? That was before my time here, sir. Before our people’s time here, sir. The George was in other hands at that time, sir.”

“I believe so.”

“But I would hold a pretty wager, sir, that a House like Tellson and Company was flourishing, a matter of fifty, not to speak of fifteen years ago?”

“You might treble that, and say a hundred and fifty, yet not be far from the truth.”
“She may only ask for a gentleman from Tellson’s Bank…”
- This Mam’selle Lorry is meeting has business with Tellson’s.
  - Does she need money?

“We are quite a French house, as well as an English one.”
- Tellson’s has branches in both England and London. Therefore, people from both countries bank with Tellson’s.

“Not of late years. It is fifteen years since we—since I—came last from France.”
- The last time Lorry traveled from France was 15 years ago.
- He wasn’t alone, but he corrects himself and changes his response to “I.”
  - Why the secrecy with the waiter?

“You might treble that, and say a hundred and fifty, yet not be far from the truth.”
- Tellson’s has been in business for 150 years. This conversation with the waiter suggests the bank is not doing as well as it once did.
“In your adopted country, I presume, I cannot do better than address you as a young English lady, Miss Manette?”
“If you please, sir.”
“Miss Manette, I am a man of business. I have a business charge to acquit myself of. In your reception of it, don’t heed me any more than if I was a speaking machine — truly, I am not much else. I will, with your leave, relate to you, miss, the story of one of our customers.”
“Story!”

He seemed wilfully to mistake the word she had repeated, when he added, in a hurry, “Yes, customers; in the banking business we usually call our connection our customers. He was a French gentleman; a scientific gentleman; a man of great acquirements — a Doctor.”
“Not of Beauvais?”
“Why, yes, of Beauvais. Like Monsieur Manette, your father, the gentleman was of Beauvais. Like Monsieur Manette, your father, the gentleman was of repute in Paris. I had the honour of knowing him there. Our relations were business relations, but confidential. I was at that time in our French House, and had been—oh! twenty years.”
Mr. Lorry reveals his mission (28)

- Lucie’s adopted country is England, hence the title “Miss” instead of “Mademoiselle.” Her last name is Manette, so we must assume she is French.
- Lorry refers to himself as a “man of business” and a “speaking machine” because he doesn’t have time for emotions; he is dedicated to his work. Mr. Lorry is a rational, not emotional, person.
- The gentleman who is the subject of Lorry’s story was a Doctor from the French town of Beauvais, coincidentally like Lucie’s father.
- Mr. Lorry did confidential work for her father. At the time (20 years ago), he was working in the French branch of Tellson’s.
“I speak, miss, of twenty years ago. He married—an English lady—and I was one of the trustees. His affairs, like the affairs of many other French gentlemen and French families, were entirely in Tellson’s hands. In a similar way I am, or I have been, trustee of one kind or other for scores of our customers. **These are mere business relations, miss; there is no friendship in them, no particular interest, nothing like sentiment.** I have passed from one to another, in the course of my business life, just as I pass from one of our customers to another in the course of my business day; in short, I have no feelings; I am a mere machine. To go on—”

“But this is my father’s story, sir; and I begin to think” — the curiously roughened forehead was very intent upon him — “that when I was left an orphan through my mother’s surviving my father only two years, it was you who brought me to England. I am almost sure it was you.”

Mr. Lorry took the hesitating little hand that confidingly advanced to take his, and he put it with some ceremony to his lips. He then conducted the young lady straightway to her chair again, and, holding the chair-back with his left hand, and using his right by turns to rub his chin, pull his wig at the ears, or point what he said, stood looking down into her face while she sat looking up into his.
Mr. Lorry reveals his mission (Cont. 28-9)

- Mr. Lorry reiterates that he is focused on business and carrying out his job to its completion. He states he has no use for connections and friendships with clients.
- Lorry brought Lucie to England from France when she was a baby. Her mother died two years after her father died.
- He is a very polite man. He treats Lucie with respect; for example, he holds her and helps her into the chair.
  - This suggests that Lorry does feel a connection to Lucie, meaning that he has some paternal feelings for her. This would seem appropriate because he has been caring for her finances that her parents left her, and he empathized with her plight as a baby.
“Miss Manette, it was I. And you will see how truly I spoke of myself just now, in saying I had no feelings, and that all the relations I hold with my fellow-creatures are mere business relations, when you reflect that I have never seen you since. No; you have been the ward of Tellson’s House since, and I have been busy with the other business of Tellson’s House since. Feelings! I have no time for them, no chance of them. I pass my whole life, miss, in turning an immense pecuniary Mangle.”

*     *     *     *     *

“So far, miss (as you have remarked), this is the story of your regretted father. Now comes the difference. If your father had not died when he did—Don’t be frightened! How you start!”

She did, indeed, start. And she caught his wrist with both her hands.

“Pray,” said Mr. Lorry, in a soothing tone, bringing his left hand from the back of the chair to lay it on the supplicatory fingers that clasped him in so violent a tremble: “pray control your agitation—a matter of business. As I was saying—”

Her look so discomposed him that he stopped, wandered, and began anew:
Mr. Lorry reveals his mission (Cont. 29-30)

- Mr. Lorry suggests that because he hasn’t seen Lucie since she was a baby, he truly does not form emotional connections to his clients.
- Although he claims he doesn’t care to show affection, he soothes Lucie and holds her hand while he tells her the news of her father: “‘Pray’, said Mr. Lorry, in a soothing tone, bringing his left hand from the back of the chair to lay it on the supplicatory fingers that clasped him in so violent a tremble.”
“As I was saying; if Monsieur Manette had not died; if he had suddenly and silently disappeared; if he had been spirited away; if it had not been difficult to guess to what dreadful place, though no art could trace him; if he had an enemy in some compatriot who could exercise a privilege that I in my own time have known the boldest people afraid to speak of in a whisper, across the water there; for instance, the privilege of filling up blank forms for the consignment of any one to the oblivion of a prison for any length of time; if his wife had implored the king, the queen, the court, the clergy, for any tidings of him, and all quite in vain;—then the history of your father would have been the history of this unfortunate gentleman, the Doctor of Beauvais.”

“I entreat you to tell me more, sir.”

“I will. I am going to. You can bear it?”

“I can bear anything but the uncertainty you leave me in at this moment.”

“You speak collectedly, and you—*are* collected. That’s good!” (Though his manner was less satisfied than his words.) “A matter of business. Regard it as a matter of business — business that must be done. Now if this doctor’s wife, though a lady of great courage and spirit, had suffered so intensely from this cause before her little child was born—”

“The little child was a daughter, sir.”
Mr. Lorry reveals his mission (Cont. 30-1)

- Doctor Manette, Lucie’s father, must have an enemy that put him into prison for such a long time.

- “A matter of business. Regard it as a matter of business — business that must be done.”
  - Mr. Lorry continues to emphasize the purpose of his visit is business and not sentimentality.

- In the passage, Mr. Lorry, in the gentlest way possible is trying to break the news to Miss Manette that her father is alive. While he is looking out for his business relationships, he cannot hide his feelings of kindness and empathy toward her.
“A daughter. A-a-matter of business — don’t be distressed. Miss, if the poor lady had suffered so intensely before her little child was born, that she came to the determination of sparing the poor child the inheritance of any part of the agony she had known the pains of, by rearing her in the belief that her father was dead— No, don’t kneel! In Heaven’s name why should you kneel to me!”

“For the truth. O dear, good, compassionate sir, for the truth!”

“A-a matter of business. You confuse me, and how can I transact business if I am confused? Let us be clear-headed. If you could kindly mention now, for instance, what nine times ninepence are, or how many shillings in twenty guineas, it would be so encouraging. I should be so much more at my ease about your state of mind.” [. . .] “That’s right, that’s right. Courage! Business! You have business before you; useful business. Miss Manette, your mother took this course with you. And when she died — I believe broken-hearted — having never slackened her unavailing search for your father, she left you, at two years old, to grow to be blooming, beautiful, and happy, without the dark cloud upon you of living in uncertainty whether your father soon wore his heart out in prison, or wasted there through many lingering years.”
Mr. Lorry reveals his mission (Cont. 31)

- The repetition of the phrase “a matter of business” shows a lot about his personality.
  - He does not want to reveal how he got all this information or how much it could actually impact his and Miss Manette’s life.
- Miss Manette’s mother asked that Lucie be told her father had died so that she wonder why he was missing or fretting over his imprisonment while she was growing up.
- Mr. Lorry tries not to overwhelm her with all the information from her past.
“You know that your parents had no great possession, and that what they had was secured to your mother and to you. There has been no new discovery, of money, or of any other property; but—”

He felt his wrist held closer, and he stopped. The expression in the forehead, which had so particularly attracted his notice, and which was now immovable, had deepened into one of pain and horror.

“But he has been — been found. He is alive. Greatly changed, it is too probable; almost a wreck, it is possible; though we will hope the best. Still, alive. Your father has been taken to the house of an old servant in Paris, and we are going there: I, to identify him if I can: you, to restore him to life, love, duty, rest, comfort.”

A shiver ran through her frame, and from it through his. She said, in a low, distinct, awe-stricken voice, as if she were saying it in a dream:

“I am going to see his Ghost! It will be his Ghost—not him!”

Mr. Lorry quietly chafed the hands that held his arm. “There, there, there! See now, see now! The best and the worst are known to you, now. You are well on your way to the poor wronged gentleman, and, with a fair sea voyage, and a fair land journey, you will be soon at his dear side.”
Mr. Lorry reveals his mission (Cont. 31-2)

- Mr. Lorry tries to be comforting toward Lucie after telling her that her father is still alive. She clings to him with shock over the news her father has been alive all these years. Lorry cheers Lucie up by being optimistic about their trip.
- He is kind because he wants to bring Lucie to her father to restore him to life.
  - How will she restore him to life? What kind of condition is her father in that Lucie is necessary to restore him to life?
“Only one thing more,” said Mr. Lorry, laying stress upon it as a wholesome means of enforcing her attention: “he has been found under another name; his own, long forgotten or long concealed. It would be worse than useless now to inquire which; worse than useless to seek to know whether he has been for years overlooked, or always designedly held prisoner. It would be worse than useless now to make any inquiries, because it would be dangerous. Better not to mention the subject, anywhere or in any way, and to remove him — for a while at all events — out of France. Even I, safe as an Englishman, and even Tellson’s, important as they are to French credit, avoid all naming of the matter. I carry about me, not a scrap of writing openly referring to it. This is a secret service altogether. My credentials, entries, and memoranda, are all comprehended in the one line, ‘Recalled to Life,’ which may mean anything. But what is the matter! She doesn’t notice a word! Miss Manette!”

Perfectly still and silent, and not even fallen back in her chair, she sat under his hand, utterly insensible; with her eyes open and fixed upon him, and with that last expression looking as if it were carved or branded into her forehead. So close was her hold upon his arm, that he feared to detach himself lest he should hurt her; therefore he called out loudly for assistance without moving.
Mr. Lorry reveals his mission (Cont. 31-2)

● Lucie’s father is using another name.
  ○ Mr. Lorry wonders if it was forgotten or if her father is using an alias.
  ○ He also wonder whether Lucie’s father was forgotten about by his enemy, or if the enemy plans to have Doctor Manette incarcerated forever.

● The need for secrecy is vital; there is danger involved.

● Mr. Lorry’s credentials, entries and memoranda all respond with “recalled to life”
  ○ “Recalled to life” is a secret in itself because the response is vague, as evidenced by the confusion Jerry Cruncher and the Dover mail guards experienced when hearing it.

● Mr. Lorry keeps no paperwork about his mission in case he is caught or questioned.