The state of monarchy is the supremest thing upon earth; for kings are not only God’s lieutenants upon earth, and sit upon God’s throne, but even by God Himself they are called gods… Kings justly gods, for they exercise a… divine power upon earth… God hath power to create or destroy, make or unmake at His pleasure, to give life or sent death to judge and to be judged nor accountable to none, to raise low things and to make high things low at His pleasure… And the like power of kings…

--- James I before Parliament at Whitehall, 21 March, 1610

“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.”   
― [Charles Dickens](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/239579.Charles_Dickens), [*A Tale of Two Cities*](http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/2956372)

“Sadly, sadly, the sun rose; it rose upon no sadder sight than the man of good abilities and good emotions, incapable of their directed exercise, incapable of his own help and his own happiness, sensible of the blight on him, and resigning himself to let it eat him away.”   
― [Charles Dickens](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/239579.Charles_Dickens), [*A Tale of Two Cities*](http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/2956372)

“I see a beautiful city and a brilliant people rising from this abyss. I see the lives for which I lay down my life, peaceful, useful, prosperous and happy. I see that I hold a sanctuary in their hearts, and in the hearts of their descendants, generations hence. It is a far, far better thing that I do, than I have ever done; it is a far, far better rest that I go to than I have ever known.”   
― [Charles Dickens](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/239579.Charles_Dickens), [*A Tale of Two Cities*](http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/2956372)

“Liberty, equality, fraternity, or death; - the last, much the easiest to bestow, O Guillotine!”   
― [Charles Dickens](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/239579.Charles_Dickens), [*A Tale of Two Cities*](http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/2956372)

Write a few paragraphs answering the following questions.

What is the meaning of this group of quotes? Why might they be significant? Can you guess why you are reading them?