

APPENDIX

BIOGRAPHY

Charles Dickens or named Charles John Huffam Dickens is a great English novelist in Victorian era (1812-1870). He was born on Feb 7th, 1812 at a house in The Mile End Terrace, Commercial Road, Landport (Portsea). He was the second of eight children in the family of John Dickens, who worked as a clerk for the navy. He received an elementary education in private school and served for a time as an attorney's clerk. In 1814, the family moved to London, and then to Chatham, Kent. John Dickens was often in financial difficulties, and in 1824 he was imprisoned for debt. Because of the family's poverty, the education of the young Dickens was halted for five months when he was sent to work in a shoe-blackening factory in London.

Dickens studied at Wellington House Academy, in London, after which, in 1827, he became a law office clerk and then a shorthand court reporter. His literary talent was not long in emerging. His literary talent was not long in emerging. His first short story was published in 1833, and in 1836 he published his sketches of London life, *Sketches By Boz*. In that year he also became the editor of Bentley's Miscellany, and he married Catherine Hogarth. The first of Dickens's novels was *The Pickwick Papers* (1836-37). Like most of his novels, it was published in serial form. After this success, Dickens wrote at a prodigious rate. While the public was still rejoicing in the first sprightly running of the 'new humor', the humorist starts to work desperately on the grim scenes of *Oliver Twist* (1837-39). It is the story of a parish orphan. The nucleus of the novel had already been seen the light in his sketches. *Nicholas Nickleby* (1838-39) is one of his weakest. An unmistakably 18th century character pervades it. Some of the vignettes are among the most piquant and besetting ever written. Large parts of it are totally unobserved conventional melodrama. However, this time, the public demanded a story from Dickens. Thus was commenced *The Old Curiosity Shop* (1840-41), which was continued with slight of his day and spent, followed by *Barnaby Rudge* (1841). Dickens felt keenly the social injustices of his day and spent much time traveling and campaigning for social improvement. In 1842, he

toured the United States and Canada and aroused controversy by advocating the abolition of slavery.

He published *American Notes* in October, 1842. Dickens best-known works during the 1840s and 1850s include *Martin Chuzzlewit* (1843-44) which was important as closing to his great character period; *A Christmas Carol* (1843) which was one of Dickens's most loved works, which had been adapted into screen a number of times; *Dombey and Son* (1846-48); *David Copperfield* (1849-50) which was gained in intensity by the autobiographical form into which they were thrown. *David Copperfield* was a hand-writing of Charles Dickens about an autobiography. *David Copperfield* was used as the way of looking back over his own life. Many of his experiences appeared in this novel. *David Copperfield* is unusual only because it seemed to copy some of the events of Charles Dickens's life so very closely. At the end of March 1850, he commenced the new two-penny called *Household Words*. Dickens used them to form a direct means of communication between himself and his readers. Then, Dickens wrote the somewhat dreary and incoherent *Bleak House* (1852-53). Followed by this, Dickens wrote *Hard Times*, which was published in 1854. This novel had an anti-Manchester Scholl tract, which Ruskin regarded as Dickens's best work. Along with that, he had put finishing touch to another long novel, *Little Dorrit* (1855-57). *The Tale of Two Cities* (1859), commenced in all the year round, which was the successor of *Household Words*. The novel was presented before the readers in 1859 and was much better. A New Weekly, *All The Year Round*, was established under his editorship in 1859. In the late 1850s, and continuing into the 1860s, Dickens gave public readings from his works in London and provinces. These dramatic readings were extremely popular, both in England and abroad.

Dickens gave a reading in Paris in 1863 and undertook a reading tour of the United States from December, 1867 to April, 1868. The tour began in Boston and continued in other East coast cities, in spite of the fact that Dickens was poor health at the time. During the 1860s, Dickens published *Great Expectations* (1860-61) and *Our Mutual Friend* (1864-65) as the second last novel Dickens wrote, started with a murder mystery. His last book, *Mystery of Edwin Drood*; was the chief occupation. It hardly promised to become a masterpiece. However, it

contained much fine descriptive technique; grouped round a scene of which Dickens had an unrivalled sympathetic knowledge.

Dickens's health had started deteriorating in the 1860. The fact that he had started doing public readings of his works in 1858 brought even greater a physical toll on him. On the evening of June 8, 1870, after a long spell of writing in the Chalet, where he habitually wrote, he collapsed suddenly at dinner. Next day, his health remained in its worst shape. He died at 6:00 PM on Friday, June 9, 1870. He was buried privately in Poet's Corner, Westminster Abbey, in the early morning of June 14.

The Synopsis

Dickens's David Copperfield

David Copperfield is born at Blunderstone in Suffolk. Six month before David Copperfield's birth, his father died. His aunt Betsey Trotwood, arrives on the night he is born, but she immediately gives up all interest in him, as she had firmly expected a girl. David lives with his widowed mother – Clara and a nurse – Peggotty. His early childhood is very happy. His mother is like a childish widow and even a childish mother. However, he really loves and admires his mother, because he only has one figure to be imitated. One day, Peggotty takes him on holiday to Yarmouth, where they stay in an old-boat with her brother Mr. Peggotty, his nephew Ham and pretty niece little Emily, and forlorn widow Mrs. Gummidge. David's happiness ends when he returns home to find that his mother has re-married. Her new husband, Mr. Murdstone, and his sister Jane, drive Clara to an early grave with their cruel firmness.

David is sent away to Salem House, a school run by harsh, cruel, headmaster, Mr. Creakle. He makes two friends there: the apparently charming Steerforth and the agreeable Traddles. But, after his mother's death, his father sends David to work at Murdstone's London Warehouse. In London, he lodges with Mr. Micawbers. Mr. Micawbers, though always in debt, has a heart of gold. When the Micawbers must flee their creditors, David searches for another family. This time, he sets off on a long and dangerous journey to find his aunt Betsey, miles away in Dover. Aunt Betsey decides to raise David. She also arranges for him to live in Canterbury with her lawyer, Mr. Wickfield and his lovely daughter, Agnes, and to attend old Doctor Strong's excellent school there. In Canterbury, David also meets Wickfield's sinister clerk, the 'umble' Uriah Heep, and renews his friendship with the Micawbers when they happen to pass through town.

David grows up, successfully completes his education, and is to spend some time looking about for a career. David is articled to Spenlow and Jorkins as an apprentice proctor in Doctor Commons. David meets Dora Spenlow and instantly falls desperately in love with her. She really has pretty faces, hair, and good figures. She is delicate and fundamentally sweet. So, after her birthday picnic, they are secretly engaged.

Aunt Betsey arrives in London with Mr. Dick, and announces that she is ruined. David starts work with great determination, as a part time secretary to Doctor Strong. At the same time he teaches himself shorthand. After many struggles, he becomes a parliamentary reporter. Mr. Spenlow has learned of his daughter's secret engagement, through her companion, Jane Murdstone, and forbids it. But he dies suddenly that night, and Dora moves to live with her aunts. David is still allowed to visit her there. Eventually, his hopes are fulfilled and he and Dora are married.

Previously, Uriah Heep appeared in London, seeming to have Mr. Wickfield in his power, and still hoping, as he has told David, to marry Agnes. After David's marriage, he returns, and makes unpleasant suggestions concerning Doctor Strong's young wife Annie and her idle cousin Jack Maldon. For some time, Micawbers, now working as a clerk for Heep, behaves strangely. Then, he calls David and his aunt to Canterbury, and, with his usual great eloquence, accuses Heep of many frauds and crimes against Mr. Wickfield. With the help of the reliable Traddles, Uriah Heep is crushed. Micawbers is lent money to ease his financial difficulties; he and his family accept the suggestion of emigrating.

David has become a successful author, and gives up his job as a parliamentary reporter. His marriage to Dora, though happy, is marred because she is so completely impractical. She is really like his mother, because they are domestically incompetent. They are treated as children by other adults and are dominated by their servants. Realizing that it is selfish to try to 'form her mind', David is reconciled and loves her for herself, but still feels a sense of loss and incompleteness in their relationship. Dora loses a child and is afterwards very ill. Her illness continues, she weakens slowly, and dies. She is leaving David to

figure out once and for all who he is and what he values. David goes abroad for a year to discover these self-truths. David realizes that he has always loved Agnes Wickfield, and that she always been the light of his life. Now he is sure, that Agnes is involved with someone else, and decides he must not interfere. At last this misunderstanding is cleared up. David and Agnes declare their mutual love, and are married. Agnes reveals that this was Dora's dying wish. David remains very happily married to Agnes. With Agnes, David Copperfield has established himself and achieved his happiness.