

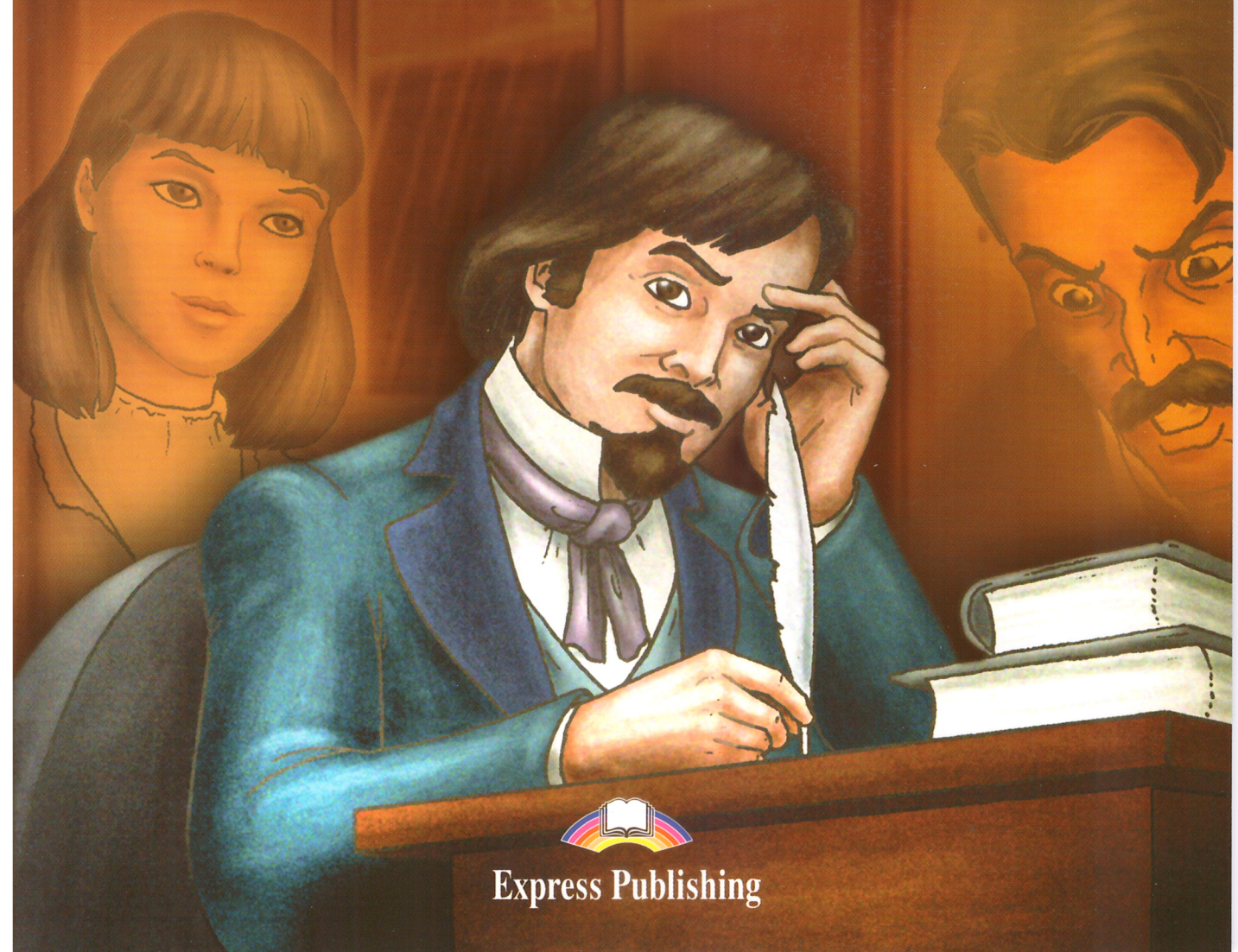
illustrated

READERS

CHARLES DICKENS

DAVID COPPERFIELD

retold by Virginia Evans



Express Publishing

CONTENTS

Charles Dickens.....	4
David Copperfield	5
Plot & Characters.....	6
1 My Life Begins	8
2 My New School	10
3 Mr Micawber	12
4 A New Home	14
5 I Return to London	16
6 Dora	18
7 Wedding Bells	20
8 A Shocking Secret	22
9 The Truth is Told	24
10 The Shipwreck	26
11 Sad Goodbyes	28
12 Happiness At Last	30
Activities	32
Picture Dictionary.....	44
Word List.....	46



Charles Dickens

Charles Dickens is one of the most famous writers in the English language. He was born in Portsmouth on 7 February 1812. His father had a well-paid job, but wasted money and was often in debt. In 1822, his family moved to London. At the age of twelve, Dickens had to leave school and work in a factory when his father was put in prison for debt.

Because his early life was difficult, Dickens worked very hard to become a successful writer. He worked as a reporter for several newspapers and magazines and started writing short stories. His first short story was published in 1833. In 1836

Dickens became famous when a magazine began publishing his funny stories, called *The Pickwick Papers*, in monthly episodes. Many of Dickens' books were published in episode form in different newspapers and magazines. Some of his best-known books include *Oliver Twist*, *David Copperfield*, *Great Expectations* and *A Christmas Carol*.

He got married in 1836 and had ten children. In the last few years of his life Dickens gave many public readings of his books in which he would act out the stories and all the characters. He died on 9 June 1870 and was buried in Westminster Abbey in London.

Read the biography of Charles Dickens, then answer the following questions:

- 1 When and where was Dickens born?
.....
- 2 Why did Dickens have to leave school?
.....
- 3 When was his first story published ?
.....
- 4 What was the name of his funny stories?
.....
- 5 When did he die and where was he buried?
.....

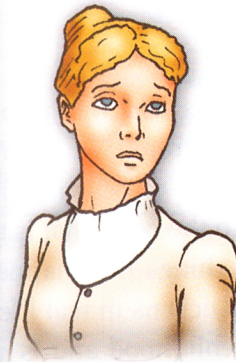
The Plot

The story is about David's life. His father died 6 months before David was born, but David is happy with his mother and her servant and friend, Peggotty – that is, until his mother gets married again. She marries Mr Murdstone, who is cruel to David and sends him far away to school. David's mother dies when he is ten and his stepfather sends him to work in a factory in London. David is very unhappy, so he runs away to find his only living relative – his father's aunt – and make a new start. The story tells us about his life, and the people in it, as he grows up and becomes a man.



David Copperfield

is the hero of the story. David is a sweet and friendly boy who has an unhappy childhood, but grows up to be a good, kind and honest man.

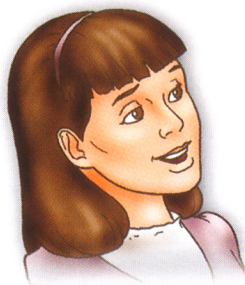


Clara Copperfield

is David's mother, a gentle young woman who lets other people tell her what to do.

Betsey Trotwood

is David's great aunt. She sometimes shouts, and seems quite strict, but really she is a kind and caring person.



Agnes Wickfield

is a kind, caring girl who David first meets as a child. They are close friends from the start.

1. MY LIFE BEGINS

My name is David Copperfield. On the night I was born, my great aunt, Betsey Trotwood, came to our house ...

This baby will grow up to be a good girl!

A BOY? Oh no!

But ... the baby is ... a boy!

My early life was happy. I loved my mother and our maid, Peggotty, very much.

So Aunt Betsey left the house and I didn't see her again for many years.

A boy! Bah! I don't like boys!

But one day Mother met a man and he came to our house to visit her.

I didn't like him at all.

David, this is Mr Murdstone.

Hello.

David, what's wrong?

You are too nice to him, Clara. You must be strict.



Before Reading

- 1 Look at the pictures. What do you think is happening in the story?
- 2 Which pictures show:
 - a boat? ...
 - a candle? ...
 - a stick? ...
 - a ball? ...
 Which pictures show someone who is:
 - happy? ...
 - disappointed? ...
 - scared? ...
 - caring? ...



While Reading

- 3 Read or listen to the episode and then mark the sentences as **T** (true) or **F** (false).
 - 1 Aunt Betsey wants the baby to be a girl.
 - 2 David loves the maid, Peggotty, very much.
 - 3 Peggotty's brother is called Ham.
 - 4 David's mother gets married while David is in Yarmouth.
- 4 Read the episode again and say who the words in bold refer to:
Mr Murdstone, Aunt Betsey, David or **Clara**.

1 You must do what I say.	3 I don't like boys!
2 His sister, Jane, has come to live here, too.	4 You are too nice to him .

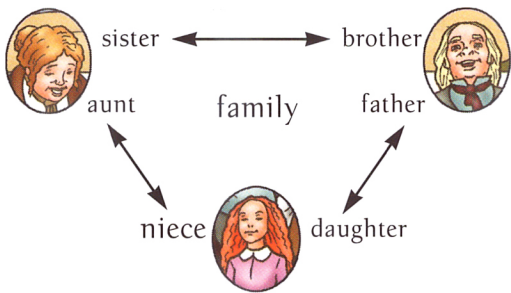


After Reading

- 5 Read and listen, then take roles and act out the episode.
- 6 In pairs, discuss the following questions:
 - 1 Why does David turn away from Mr Murdstone when he first meets him?
 - 2 Why do Clara and Mr Murdstone make sure David is away on holiday when they get married?
 - 3 Why do you think Mr Murdstone's sister, Jane, has moved into the house as well?
 - 4 What do you think will happen in the next episode?

Picture Dictionary

Episode One



married

Episode Two

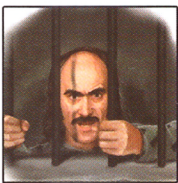


bite

Episode Three



policeman



prison

Episode Four



lawyer



aunt

nephew



Episode Five

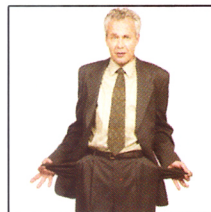


worried

Episode Six



cottage



poor

Word List

What do these words and phrases mean in your language?

Charles Dickens

act sth out (v phr)
be (was-been) born (v)
become (became-become) (v)
begin (began-begun) (v)
bury (buried-buried) (v)
character (n)
child - children (n)
die (died-died) (v)
difficult (adj)
early life (phr)
factory (n)
family (n)
famous (adj)
few (adj)
get (got-got) married (v phr)
give (gave-given) (v)
in debt (phr)
job (n)
leave (left-left) (v)
magazine (n)
monthly episodes (phr)
move (from ... to ...) (v)
newspaper (n)
prison (n)
public readings (phr)
publish (a book, story, etc) (v)
reporter (n)
several (adj)
(short) story (n)
successful (adj)
waste (money, time, etc) (v)
well-paid (adj)
write (wrote-written) (v)
writer (n)
work hard (phr)
year (n)

David Copperfield

based on (phr)
bill (n)
childhood (n)
describe (v)
favourite (adj)

for example (phr)
film version (n phr)
happen (v)
own (adj)
pay (paid-paid) (v)
person - people (n)
popular (adj)
real life (phr)
spend (spent-spent) (v)
unhappy (adj)

Plot & Characters

• *Plot*

aunt (n)
cruel (adj)
far away (adv phr)
grow (grew-grown) up (phr v)
happy (adj)
living (adj)
make a new start (phr)
relative (n)
run (ran-run) away (phr v)
send (sent-sent) (v)
servant (n)
stepfather (n)

• *David*

friendly (adj)
hero (n)
honest (adj)
kind (adj)
sweet (adj)

• *Clara*

gentle (adj)
young (adj)

• *Betsey Trotwood*

caring (adj)
great aunt (n)
seem (to be) (v)
shout (v)
strict (adj)

• *Agnes Wickfield*

close friend (phr)
meet (met-met) (v)

• *Peggotty*

generous (adj)
lifelong (adj)
loving (adj)
maid (n)

• *Emily*

niece (n)

• *Mr Murdstone*

bossy (adj)
cruel (adj)

• *Dora Spenlow*

boss (n)

daughter (n)
innocent (adj)
practical (adj)

• *Mr Micawber*

cheerful (adj)
get (got-got) better (v phr)
hope (v)
keep (kept-kept) (v)
owe sb money (v phr)

• *Uriah Heep*

evil (adj)
work for sb (phr)

• *Jane Murdstone*

cold (adj)
hate (v)
nasty (nastier-nastiest) (adj)

1 - My Life Begins

change (v)
different (adj)
live (v)
married (adj)
on holiday (phr)
stay with sb (v phr)
take (took-taken) (v)
visit (v)
wrong (adj)

2 - My New School

hit (hit-hit) (v)
key (n)