

DAVID COPPERFIELD

CHARLES DICKENS

LIVING LITERATURE SERIES

A PERMA-BOUND PRODUCTION

TEACHER'S GUIDE

GUIDE WRITTEN BY MARY ELLEN SNODGRASS

SYNOPSIS

David Copperfield, who begins life six months after David, Sr., departs it, enjoys the love of both his doting mother Clara and Clara Peggotty, his nurse. His joy in acceptance and warmth is shattered when his mother marries Edward Murdstone, a hard man who gives little thought to the needs of his stepson. Davy endures whippings and isolation in his room when his recitations fall short of Murdstone's expectations. His mother realizes that her control of her own son has been usurped by her new husband and his unfeeling sister Jane. Despite Clara's protests, the boy finds himself on a cart bound for the Salem House boarding school near London.

School brings friendships with James Steerforth and Tommy Traddles, but the vicious treatment of Mr. Creakle, the schoolmaster, is a new misery. On his tenth birthday, David arrives in Mrs. Creakle's parlor expecting a hamper from Peggotty, but he receives instead the news of his mother's death, following the birth of a second son. After a cold reception from the Murdstones, Davy succumbs to grief. He is consoled by a visit to Peggotty's house by the sea at Yarmouth, where he enjoys the company of Daniel Peggotty's adopted niece and nephew, Little Em'ly and Ham.

David leaves school and is employed by Murdstone and Grinby's warehouse to wash and label bottles. During this unbearable period of his youth he boards with the impoverished Micawber family, who support and assist David through difficult periods of his life. David runs away to his Aunt Betsy Trotwood, David's father's favorite aunt, in Dover and begins a new life. He enrolls in a more acceptable school, boards with Mr. Wickfield, and eventually finds work in the law office of Spenlow and Jorkins. He falls in love with Mr. Spenlow's spoiled, immature daughter Dora.

David's introduction of his school friend, James Steerforth, to the Peggotty household results in Em'ly's desertion of her fiancé Ham in favor of the more impressive Steerforth. Despite the disgrace of their liaison, Daniel Peggotty vows to bring Em'ly back. Meanwhile David succeeds as a journalist and marries Dora, but he finds her hopelessly inadequate at housekeeping.

David despairs of Aunt Betsey's finances, which have dwindled under the care of Uriah Heep, clerk to Mr. Wickfield. Wilkins Micawber, who now works for their office, exposes Uriah's plotting and deception, and with the help of Tommy Traddles, brings Heep to justice. When Dora dies

after giving birth to a child, David turns to Agnes Wickfield, his old friend, for comfort.

Em'ly returns to the Peggotty home and makes plans to emigrate to Australia with the Micawber family. Ham drowns in a freak incident when Steerforth's sailboat founders in a storm. As Ham tries to rescue the unidentified victim, both he and Steerforth die near the beach at Yarmouth. After pondering the events of his early life, David returns from a three-year trip abroad and convinces Agnes Wickfield that his friendship for her has turned into love.

David's marriage to Agnes has been blessed by Dora, who from her deathbed encouraged Agnes to take her place as David's wife. After ten years they remain happy with their life together. David expresses contentment with his writing career and his serene wife.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

A champion of the poor and underprivileged, Charles Dickens pleased audiences on both sides of the Atlantic with his many novels. His more memorable characters, such as Ebenezer Scrooge and Oliver Twist, became household names to readers who devoured his works, which were often published in serialized form. In his lifetime, Dickens achieved the fame that few authors earn before their deaths.

Charles Dickens was a voracious reader and a scholarly child. He was born at Portsea in 1812 to an unpretentious lower middle class family. His father showed little ability to manage money and subsequently served a sentence at Marshalsea prison for his debts. Charles's life changed at this point. He left school at the age of twelve and labored in a shoe polish factory pasting labels on bottles. His suffering and humiliation marked his life and his writing, in which vivid portrayals of poverty and degradation characterize the lives of Oliver Twist, Pip, Tiny Tim, David Copperfield, and other children.

Dickens worked as an office boy in a law firm before establishing himself in journalism. His first novel, *Pickwick Papers* (1837), led to lasting fame as an entertaining novelist. Subsequent emphasis on social issues earned him the reputation of reformer. In 1842, a tour of the United States brought him in contact with his American supporters, although the American press criticized him for some of his beliefs, such as his disdain for slavery.

At the height of his career Dickens produced his major classics—*David Copperfield* (1850), *A Tale of Two Cities* (1859), and *Great Expectations* (1861). His health suffered in

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his last years from the punishment of too many public readings and lectures and from the mental anguish he experienced when his marriage crumbled. He died in 1870, leaving the manuscript of *Edwin Drood* unfinished.

CRITIC'S CORNER

Although critics are quick to point out Dickens's obvious faults—the overuse of coincidence and excessive sentimentality—Dickens holds an enviable position among English novelists. During his lifetime he was able to move the reading public to action against human misery by his intense depiction of poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, and the cruelties of social institutions, such as orphanages, workhouses, factories, and boarding schools.

The autobiographical scenes of *David Copperfield*, including Wilkins Micawber's incarceration for debt and David's humiliating employment in a warehouse, offer ample evidence of the author's skill in description. His sympathy toward a variety of characters assures the reader that Charles Dickens had an open heart that welcomed all humanity to his art.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To follow the progress of the main character's maturation.
2. To assess the effect of cruelty on human beings.
3. To evaluate the need for family love and support.
4. To discuss the author's use of stereotyped characters.
5. To describe the effect of a seaside setting on the events of the novel.
6. To discuss the theme of personal loss and compensation.
7. To comment on the nineteenth-century style of educating and rearing children.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To contrast Dora and Agnes as mates for David Copperfield and to predict the outcome of David's marriage to Agnes.
2. To assess the various women characters who influence David, such as his mother, aunt, wife, nurse, and friends.
3. To describe the seamy side of London and its effect on poor and displaced persons.
4. To account for the trickery and deception of Uriah Heep and to explain Dickens's sense of justice.
5. To describe David's friends and their willingness to help him through difficult times.
6. To explain how social conditions in nineteenth-century England caused unnecessary hardships on widows, orphans, single women, and others.

MEANING STUDY

Below are words, phrases, sentences, or thought units that have a particular meaning in the story. Explain the meaning each has in this book. Page numbers are given so that you can note the context from which the item is taken.

1. L23, 4s, 9½d., (p. 394)
(*English monetary notation includes pounds, the basic denomination of currency which is noted by a capital L, the abbreviation for the Latin libra or balance beam scale; shillings, which are worth 1/20 of a pound; and pence or pennies, which are denoted by the abbreviation for the Latin denarius and are worth 1/100 of a pound. The total amount equals 23.295 pounds.*)
2. That carrion!, (p. 666)
(*In her degradation and humiliation of Emily, Rosa Dartle goes to extremes to differentiate between decent and fallen women, which was a major consideration in Victorian society. Rosa refers to Emily as though she were stinking, rotten flesh. She claims, "I can't breathe freely in the air you breathe. I find it sickly. . . There are decent women in this house, I am told; and it is a pity such a light as you should be among them . . ."*)
3. to attempt to wade off with a rope, (p. 736)
(*After a storm destroys James Steerforth's sailboat, Ham volunteers to wade into the shallow, but dangerously rough surf and attempt a rescue. David watches in horror and describes the doomed venture: "I saw hurry on the beach and men running with ropes from a capstan that was there. . . I saw him standing alone, in a seaman's frock and trowsers: a rope in his hand, or slung to his wrist: another round his body: and several of the best men holding, at a little distance, to the latter which he laid out himself slack upon the shore, at his feet."*)
4. married to a growling old Scotch Croesus, (p. 812)
(*Dora's girlhood friend, Julia Mills, has married a rich, but bad-tempered Scotsman. David compares Julia's husband to the sixth century King of Lydia mentioned in Herodotus's history who bragged of his great wealth. Her unhappy situation sums up David's understanding of the snobbish term "society": "But when society is the name for such hollow gentlemen and ladies, Julia, and when its breeding is professed indifference to everything that can advance or can retard mankind, I think we must have lost ourselves. . ."*)
5. Oh, Jip! It may be, never again!, (p. 712)
(*Dickens hesitates to describe Dora's final moments. Instead, he inserts a poignant little scene in which Dora's aged lapdog whines to go upstairs to his dying mistress. When Jip licks David's hand and implores with his eyes to be allowed a final moment with Dora, David indicates that he knows Dora will not recover. Jip dies at David's feet, enacting in miniature the*

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death scene that is taking place upstairs. Agnes confirms David's suspicions, and David, unable to face the loss of his beloved child-wife, slips into unconsciousness.)

6. you might have some difficulty in penetrating the arcana of the Modern Babylon in the direction of the City Road, (p. 145)
(In his florid style, Wilkins Micawber greets Davy and offers to direct him to the Micawber residence so that Davy will be lost in the maze of London streets.)
7. she was 'a Orfling,' and came from St. Luke's workhouse, (p. 146)
(The Micawbers employ a servant named Clickett from the neighborhood workhouse, which is a workshop in which penniless inmates are forced to work at repair jobs or simple manufacturing tasks in exchange for a place to sleep and daily food.)
8. to the King's Bench, (p. 157)
(A London courtroom where Wilkins Micawber goes after his release from King's Bench prison to settle some fees and attend to formalities.)
9. Nobody's dinner is paid for here, in that name. (p. 61)
(Davy stays at an inn in Yarmouth on his way to school near London. The landlady, however, refuses to serve anyone named Copperfield and demands to know the circumstances under which Davy identifies himself with a name other than Murdstone.)
10. Roderick Random, Peregrine Pickle, Humphrey Clinker, Tom Jones, the Vicar of Wakefield, Don Quixote, Gil Blas, and Robinson Crusoe, came out, a glorious host, to keep me company. (p. 51)
(Davy, a lonely child, enjoys the company of characters from seventeenth and eighteenth century literature by Tobias Smollett (author of the first three), Henry Fielding, Oliver Goldsmith, Miguel de Cervantes, Alair Lesage, and Daniel Defoe, respectively. He also remembers enjoying the Arabian Nights, a collection of ancient tales from Arabia, India, and Persia.)

COMPREHENSION STUDY

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages in the book.

Questions 1-5 Literal Level

1. Describe Aunt Betsey's behavior on the day of Davy's birth.
(Betsey Trotwood, doting aunt of David Copperfield, Sr., who died six months earlier, is the "principal magnate" of the family. She appears at Clara Copperfield's window the Friday that Davy is born, stares about the parlor, and gestures for Clara to let
2. Describe Barkis's death.
(Peggotty sets great store by David's visit to her dying husband because Barkis admires David and speaks of him often. Barkis seems small and awkwardly situated on his bed with his head and shoulders on the box he keeps near him. By way of explanation of his peculiar dependence on the box, he mutters, "Old clothes!"
Barkis fails to rally or speak to David, and Daniel Peggotty characterizes his tenuous state as "going out with the tide." When David questions the phrase, Mr. Peggotty explains that seacoast dwellers die only "when the tide's pretty nigh out" and are born when "it's pretty nigh in."
Barkis mumbles some remembrance of his cart trips to David's school. When Peggotty calls to him, Barkis cries faintly, "C.P. Barkis. . . No better woman anywhere." Opening his eyes, the old man attempts to stretch forth his arms to David and says distinctly with a smile, "Barkis is willin'! before going out with the tide.")
3. How does Uriah Heep explain his inclination toward "umbleness"?
(When Uriah joins David for an evening stroll and questions David's intentions toward Agnes, David admits that he is promised to another woman. David notes, however, that Agnes is as far above Uriah "as that moon herself."
Uriah initiates a discussion of his favorite topic, humility, and asserts that his father taught him to be servile: "We was to be umble to this person, and umble to that; and to pull off our caps here, and to make bows there; and always to know our place, and abase ourselves before our betters!" In his private considerations, David typifies the Heep philosophy as "this detestable cant of false humility.")
4. How does David acquire a job with Dr. Strong?
(After wading unsuccessfully through the financial miasma of Mr. Dick, Aunt Betsey, and Agnes, David takes Agnes's suggestion that he apply for the post of secretary to Dr. Strong, who has retired from education and moved to London. David writes a letter of application and faces the interview with
5. Describe Barkis's death.
her in. Although Miss Betsey adored her nephew but disapproved of his marriage to nineteen-year-old Clara, who was half her husband's age, she comforts the young widow and pursues a conversation about a seemingly harmless topic—the name David chose for his house.
After tea, Betsey discusses her premonition that the child will be a girl and encourages Clara to name her Betsey Trotwood Copperfield. When the baby is at last born and Mr. Chillip announces its sex, Betsey "took her bonnet by the strings, in the manner of a sling, aimed a blow at Mr. Chillip's head with it, put it on bent, walked out, and never came back.")

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determination to prove himself worthy of Aunt Betsey's faith in him.

Dr. Strong thinks that David deserves a better position and compliments him on his qualifications and distinctive school record. David agrees to work mornings and afternoons for seventy pounds a year and to assist his former tutor with his dictionary project.)

5. How does Mr. Creakle discipline his charges at Salem House?

(Mr. Creakle, shadowed by Tungay, antagonizes and prods the boys and then canes them when they revolt against his provocation. Davy learns that "Mr. Creakle had not preferred his claim to being a Tartar without reason; that he was the sternest and most severe of masters; that he laid about him, right and left, every day of his life, charging in among the boys like a trooper and slashing away, unmercifully."

Creakle is rumored to have evicted his own son for protesting his father's abuse of Mrs. Creakle. David notes that Creakle, who tells a joke before assailing a victim, enjoys his sadistic practices, taking "a delight in cutting at the boys, which was like the satisfaction of a craving appetite.")

Questions 6-8 Interpretive Level

6. How does Dickens imply an inherent weakness in women?

(Dickens's female characters are cowed by the exigencies of life. Both Clara and Dora are insufficient housekeepers and cringe before their husbands like shamed pups. Mrs. Creakle and Em'ly reveal their spinelessness by their inability to deal with evil—Mrs. Creakle when she falters before the perverse cruelties of her husband and Em'ly when she clings to a cad in hopes of wresting a crumb of gentility for herself.

Even Agnes and Aunt Betsey, who are the strongest women in the novel, require valiant rescue from the clutches of Uriah Heep in order to save themselves from ignominious debt. Emma Micawber, on the other hand, exhibits a resourcefulness that sets her slightly apart from the rest. Her incessant bearing of children reduces her efficacy, but she contrives stop-gap measures to feed her family by regularly sending David to the pawn shop for enough money to buy groceries to see them through another crisis. Although she admires and supports her talented husband, she does not ignore his faults, particularly his inability to manage money.)

7. What is the attraction Em'ly finds in Steerforth?

(Em'ly, who has enjoyed the fatherly love of Daniel Peggotty since her father's drowning, is motivated by her desire for social advancement. Mr. Omer, who attempts to summarize her character flaw, describes her as "wayward, . . . don't know her own mind quite; a little spoiled," and unable to "bind herself down."

In her first encounter with James Steerforth, Em'ly is reassured by his skillful conversation and avoidance of anything that would embarrass her. Fascinated by the outward trappings of his good manners, "she looked, and listened, and her face got animated, and she was charming. Steerforth's insouciant poise gives her a confidence she lacks in her relationship with the devoted but somewhat leaden Ham.)

8. How does Aunt Betsey change in the progress of the plot?

(At first Aunt Betsey seems like the stereotypical dowager aunt—dour, self-indulgent of her whims, outspoken, and opinionated. When her preference of sex for the baby is denied, she abandons him shortly after his birth and denies Clara the solace and encouragement she obviously needs in her early widowhood.

When Davy, footsore and dusty, approaches Betsey's gate, she shoos him away as though he were an interloper, like one of the donkeys that plague her lawn. Yet, Dickens slowly reveals a caring heart in Betsey Trotwood; by unveiling the facts of her own miserable marriage, her dealings with the "mysterious stranger," and her generous treatment of the mindless Mr. Dick, Dickens establishes her warmth. Aunt Betsey becomes a beacon to the orphaned nephew who needs a refuge from his stepfather's cruelty and neglect and from Mr. Creakle's perverse intimidation.)

Questions 9 and 10 Critical Level

9. How does Dickens use coincidence to further the plot? *(Dickens relies heavily upon chance meetings and unlikely turns of plot to achieve poetic justice in working out the story. Early in the novel Micawber appears unexpectedly and extricates Davy from an unpleasant visit to the Heep residence. The odious Jane Murdstone reappears in David's life in the unlikely post of companion to Dora Spenlow. Likewise, Chapter 35 ends with an implausible happening; as David is considering his aunt's disapproval of his engagement to Dora, he hears a beggar in the street crying "Blind, blind, blind!"*

The most forced set of circumstances is Ham's drowning in a futile attempt to save an unknown person from the stormy surf. When the author reveals that Ham has lost his life for James Steerforth, the despoiler of Ham's fiancée, he weakens the novel. In an effort to establish justice for Steerforth and to heighten the effect of Ham's selflessness, Dickens approaches the ridiculous.)

10. How does Dickens indicate progress in David's development?

(David, through happenstance, suffers the loss of both parents and falls prey to a cruel stepfather and a sadistic schoolmaster. When he takes the first step

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toward Aunt Betsey's house, he begins to set his own course and to free his life from the miseries that have beset it. His marriage to a simpering, babied wife reveals David's desire to return to the mother he lost on his tenth birthday.

Even when David at last expresses love for Agnes, shining in her eyes "the spirit of my child-wife looked upon me, saying it was well." Agnes, however, waits until after their marriage to explain how Dora commissioned Agnes to replace her as David's wife on the night Dora died. With the matter of Dora so neatly settled, Dickens carries the story to a time ten years later to prove to the reader that David is indeed ready for manhood.)

Question 11 Creative Level

11. Compose a fan letter to Dickens telling him your personal reactions to *David Copperfield*. Be specific about your likes and dislikes; encourage him to write another book about similar characters and situations, such as the comic Micawber family, the emigrants, or Aunt Betsey and Mr. Dick.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. Describe everyday life in two contrasting homes, such as Peggotty's house and Aunt Betsey's or the Micawber household and Davy's childhood home.
2. Write a newspaper account of David and Dora's wedding and reception. Include information about nineteenth-century styles of marriage service, dress, customs, and decorations.
3. Interview Martha about her experiences in London. Describe living conditions for the poor. Explain why she considers suicide a suitable end to her life.
4. Outline in order the major events of David Copperfield's life. Include several general topics, such as education, family life, employment, and friendships.
5. Compose letters from the emigrants to David Copperfield. Explain how their lives have changed and what they are enjoying about their new country. Describe their living quarters, employment, and experiences during the voyage from England. Compose a reply from David in which he reveals his own plans for the future.
6. Make a list of several unusual and illustrative names from Dickens's works, such as Uriah Heep, Ebenezer Scrooge, Oliver Twist, Fagin, Tiny Tim, Mrs. General, Mr. Dick, Charles Evremonde, Jerry Cruncher, Mr. Squeers, Monks, Smike, Mr. Sowerberry, and Mr. Brownlow. Add a small description of each character and explain why Dickens chose the name to suit the person.
7. Write a paragraph in which you explain how people learn from their sufferings. Use David Copperfield and

Charles Dickens as examples, noting the similarities in their fictional and non-fictional lives.

8. Make a timeline of Charles Dickens's life and career. Note the publication of each major work, his travels, his family development, and the growth of his reputation.
9. Read Evelyn Waugh's "The Man Who Liked Dickens." Explain the irony found in the setting, the reader, and the effect of Dickens's works on the main character.
10. Write a letter to David Copperfield in which you encourage him to make the best of adversity and to look forward to better times with Agnes.

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VOCABULARY TEST

Select a pair of words to fill the two blanks in each sentence. You will have answers left over when you finish.

- _____ 1. . . . she was too modest and gentle to advise me in many words—the wandering _____ and unsettled purpose within me, that all the little good I have done, and all the harm I have _____, I solemnly believe I may refer to her.
- _____ 2. “Do you remember when, in his _____ of your nature, and in your pampering of his pride and passion, he did this, and _____ me for life?”
- _____ 3. He was too _____ to be shaken hands with, but he begged me to shake the tassel on the top of his night-cap, which I did most _____.
- _____ 4. We were all extremely glad to see Traddles so put down, and _____ Steerforth to the skies: especially when he told us, as he _____ to do, that what he had done had been done expressly for us . . .
- _____ 5. It was so _____ not to be obliged to go out to see her, not to have any occasion to be tormenting myself about her, not to have to write to her, not to be scheming and _____ opportunities of being alone with her.
- _____ 6. These she put down upon the table without a word, glaring at me the while with _____ firmness, and then _____, locking the door after her.
- _____ 7. A passing thought occurred to me that Miss Murdstone, like the pocket-instrument called a life-preserver, was not so much _____ for purposes of protection as of _____.
- _____ 8. But the first boy seems to me a mighty creature, dwelling afar off, whose _____ height is _____.
- _____ 9. Oh, what an evening, when I sat down by my fire to a basin of mutton broth, _____ all over with fat, and thought I was going the way of my _____, and should succeed to his dismal story as well as to his chambers, and had half a mind to rush express to Dover and reveal all!
- _____ 10. The glory of lodging over this structure would have _____ him, I dare say, for many inconveniences; but, as there were really few to bear, beyond the compound of flavours I have already mentioned, and perhaps the want of a little more elbow-room, he was perfectly charmed with his _____.

- A. ardour, forborne
- B. benevolence, fooleries
- C. compensated, accommodation
- D. designed, assault
- E. dimpled, predecessor
- F. exalted, condescended
- G. exemplary, retired
- H. giddy, unattainable

- I. impetuous, variance
- J. incessantly, avail
- K. inheritance, disfigured
- L. rheumatic, cordially
- M. supposition, perspective
- N. unaccountable, devising
- O. vain, alloy
- P. whence, sere

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COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Matching (30 points)

Match the following descriptions with the characters they describe. You will have answers left over when you finish.

- _____ 1. visits the girl who ran away with Steerforth and threatens to denounce her in the streets.
- _____ 2. described by Miss Trotwood as though he were an eel.
- _____ 3. talks with Davy through the keyhole about going to the school near London.
- _____ 4. boat-builder engaged to Emily.
- _____ 5. Dora Spenlow's female companion and protector.
- _____ 6. takes service in France with traveling ladies, but flees to England.
- _____ 7. is born with a caul, which is offered for sale for fifteen guineas.
- _____ 8. is buried with her child in her arms.
- _____ 9. leaves his will in a box under a horse's nose-bag.
- _____ 10. marries Sophy and lives in London with Sophy's sisters.
- _____ 11. after her husband dies in India, she takes her maiden name, buys a cottage on the coast, and lives in seclusion.
- _____ 12. claims he can't get to sleep at night and asks Davy to tell him about the books he has read.
- _____ 13. is chosen by Dora as a suitable second wife for David.
- _____ 14. promises to crush the "transcendent and immortal hypocrite and perjurer" Heep.
- _____ 15. regrets being a disappointing child-wife to her husband.

- A. Agnes Wickfield
- B. Betsey Trotwood
- C. Clara Copperfield
- D. Clara Peggotty
- E. Daniel Peggotty
- F. David Copperfield
- G. Dora Spenlow Copperfield
- H. Edward Murdstone
- I. Ham Peggotty
- J. Jane Murdstone

- K. Little Em'ly
- L. Mr. Barkis
- M. Mr. Chillip
- N. Mr. Creakle
- O. Richard Babley (Mr. Dick)
- P. Rosa Dartle
- Q. Steerforth
- R. Tommy Traddles
- S. Uriah Heep
- T. Wilkins Micawber

Part II: Identification (20 points)

Beside each quotation place the name of the speaker.

- _____ 1. My advice is, never do to-morrow what you can do to-day. Procrastination is the thief of time. Collar him!
- _____ 2. Oh Agnes, Oh my soul, so may thy face be by me when I close my life indeed . . .
- _____ 3. What's this? Clara, my love, have you forgotten?—Firmness, my dear!

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- _____ 4. Go along! No boys here!
- _____ 5. She ain't my child; I never had one; but I couldn't love her more.
- _____ 6. . . . I am a little tired, and it made me silly for a moment—I am always a silly little thing, you know; but it made me more silly—to talk about Jip.
- _____ 7. . . . the time had come when my first parting words to you were true—when she was glad to lay her poor head on her stupid cross old Peggotty's arm—and she died like a child that had gone to sleep!
- _____ 8. Well! If you was writin' to her, p'raps you'd recollect to say that Barkis was willin'; would you?
- _____ 9. Things are changed in this office, Miss Trotwood, since I was a numble clerk, and held your pony; ain't they?
- _____ 10. Dear Mr. Traddles and dear Trotwood, papa once free with honour, what could I wish for?

Part III: True/False (20 points)

Mark the following statements either **T** for true or **F** if any part is false.

- _____ 1. After Clara Copperfield dies, Edward Murdstone sends a message to Aunt Betsey and Dover so that Davy might attend the funeral.
- _____ 2. Peggotty intends to marry Barkis unless Davy objects.
- _____ 3. Despite hard work, David never succeeds as a journalist.
- _____ 4. Davy's aunt and Janet frequently chase donkeys off the lawn.
- _____ 5. Mr. Dick uses Davy's letters from Peggotty to make a kite.
- _____ 6. Uriah suggests that it would be an honor for him to marry Dora.
- _____ 7. Ham willingly gives his life in trying to save Tommy Traddles from drowning.
- _____ 8. Peggotty and Clara Copperfield quarrel after Clara begins to keep company with Edward Murdstone.
- _____ 9. David invites Steerforth to go with him on a visit to Peggotty at her brother's boat-house.
- _____ 10. Miss Trotwood accuses Edward Murdstone of ruining Clara's life.

Part IV: Essay Questions (30 points)

1. Contrast the strength of Betsey Trotwood with the weakness of Clara Copperfield.
2. Explain how Emily's desire to be a "lady" brings about her downfall.

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COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Multiple Choice (20 points)

- _____ 1. Dora shows her affection for David by (a) leaving her will in a box (b) flying his kite on the front lawn (c) calling him Doady (d) buying him a dog named Jip.
- _____ 2. Tommy Traddles earns a law degree and (a) helps Mr. Micawber and David prove Uriah Heep's guilt (b) emigrates to Australia to take a job as chief magistrate (c) assumes the position of chief bookkeeper for Mr. Wickfield (d) assists Peggotty in straightening out her household accounts.
- _____ 3. After Jip dies at David's feet, (a) Agnes announces that she plans to go abroad (b) Dora weeps because she has been an immature, helpless wife (c) David realizes that Dora, too, has died (d) Mr. Spenlow accuses David of taking advantage of his daughter.
- _____ 4. Both Ham and Em'ly (a) look forward to Steerforth's visits (b) are orphans of people who have died at sea (c) search for Martha on the streets of Dover (d) receive large sums of money after Barkis's death.
- _____ 5. Edward Murdstone believes that Davy (a) should not learn of Clara's death (b) fears the dangers of the sea (c) disapproves of Barkis's courtship of Peggotty (d) should be whipped in order to learn.
- _____ 6. Uriah finds it easy to (a) steal from Agnes (b) take advantage of Mr. Wickfield (c) fool Aunt Betsey (d) confuse Mr. Micawber in his bookkeeping.
- _____ 7. David defends Steerforth when (a) Agnes calls him a "bad angel" (b) Ham threatens to drown him (c) Mr. Creakle canes Steerforth harder than any other boy (d) Rosa tells Em'ly the truth about him.
- _____ 8. Emma Micawber shows her love for her husband by (a) calling Uriah Heep an "eel" (b) arranging the adoption of his orphaned niece (c) accompanying him to debtor's prison (d) attempting to do a better job of cooking and keeping house.
- _____ 9. Peggotty and Clara quarrel over (a) Davy's schooling (b) Barkis's silent courtship of Peggotty (c) Ham's engagement to Em'ly (d) Edward Murdstone's courtship of Clara.
- _____ 10. After Davy's birth (a) Betsey Trotwood aims a blow at Mr. Chillip's head (b) Clara insists that he be named for his father (c) Mr. Chillip sends Ham to fetch Peggotty to nurse the baby (d) Mr. Copperfield names his home the "Rookery."

Part II: Matching (20 points)

Match parts of quotations. You will have more answers than you will need.

- _____ 1. You must not forget . . . that you are always to tell me,
- _____ 2. If I judged harshly of other people's mistakes in marriage,
- _____ 3. She warn't no higher than you was, Mas'r Davy—
- _____ 4. In my honeymoon, too, when my most inveterate enemy might relent,
- _____ 5. When you take the liberty of calling me mean or base, or anything of that sort,
- _____ 6. . . . she couldn't bear not to love anyone who was about her—
- _____ 7. Blood cannot be obtained from a stone,
- _____ 8. . . . this is indeed a meeting which is calculated to impress the mind with a sense of the instability and uncertainty of all human—
- _____ 9. This is my grumpy, frumpy story,
- _____ 10. If he lives till it turns,

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- A. because nobody can be more discreet than you can, when you choose.
- B. one would think, and not envy me a little peace of mind and happiness.
- C. you are an impudent beggar.
- D. but when they went away from her bedside, she always turned to me, as if there was rest where Peggotty was, and never fell asleep in any other way.
- E. try once more, and don't be stupid.
- F. neither can anything on account be obtained at present (not to mention law expenses) from Mr. Micawber.
- G. when you first come—when I thought what she'd grow up to be.
- H. in short, it is a most extraordinary meeting.
- I. but at length only the bleak night and the open country were around me, and the ashes of my youthful friendship.
- J. not only when you fall into trouble, but when you fall in love.
- K. he'll hold his own till past the flood, and go out with the next tide.
- L. it may have been because I had bitter reason to judge harshly of my own.
- M. when it flies high, it takes the facts a long way.
- N. it's very hard that in *your* own house I may not have a word to say about domestic matters.
- O. and we'll keep it to ourselves, Trot!

Part III: Identification (10 points)

Which one of the quotations in Part II is spoken by the following?

- _____ 1. Clara Copperfield
- _____ 2. Wilkins Micawber
- _____ 3. Steerforth
- _____ 4. Emma Micawber
- _____ 5. Agnes Wickfield

Part IV: Completion (20 points)

Fill in the word or name which completes each of these statements.

- _____ 1. David is very concerned that _____ drinks too much wine.
- _____ 2. _____ assists his master in abducting Em'ly.
- _____ 3. Mr. Barkis's _____ contains cups and saucers, a horseshoe, a shell, and money.
- _____ 4. David and Mr. Peggotty save _____ from drowning herself in the river.
- _____ 5. Miss Murdstone finds one of David's letters in _____'s mouth.
- _____ 6. David works at Murdstone and Grinby's _____, where he washes bottles and pastes on labels.
- _____ 7. On David's _____ birthday, Mrs. Creakle tells David that Clara Copperfield is dead.

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- _____ 8. David refers to his bride as "Little_____."
- _____ 9. Mr. Peggotty plucks a bit of grass and earth from Ham's _____ for Em'ly.
- _____ 10. _____ eats one of the cakes Peggotty bakes and inquires if she has a sweetheart.

Part V: Essay Questions (30 points)

1. Explain how David rekindles his romance with Agnes and marries her.
2. Choose two people who have the greatest influence on David's character and explain how they help him to grow up.

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VOCABULARY TEST ANSWER KEY

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. A | 6. G |
| 2. K | 7. D |
| 3. L | 8. H |
| 4. F | 9. E |
| 5. N | 10. C |

COMPREHENSION TEST A ANSWER KEY

Part I: Matching (30 points)

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. P | 6. K | 11. B |
| 2. S | 7. F | 12. Q |
| 3. D | 8. C | 13. A |
| 4. I | 9. L | 14. T |
| 5. J | 10. R | 15. G |

Part II: Identification (20 points)

1. Mr. Micawber
2. David Copperfield
3. Edward Murdstone
4. Betsey Trotwood
5. Daniel Peggotty
6. Dora Spenlow Copperfield
7. Clara Peggotty
8. Mr. Barkis
9. Uriah Heep
10. Agnes Wickfield

Part III: True/False (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. F |
| 2. T | 7. F |
| 3. F | 8. T |
| 4. T | 9. T |
| 5. F | 10. T |

COMPREHENSION TEST B ANSWER KEY

Part I: Multiple Choice (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. C | 6. B |
| 2. A | 7. B |
| 3. C | 8. C |
| 4. B | 9. D |
| 5. D | 10. A |

Part II: Matching (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. J | 6. D |
| 2. L | 7. F |
| 3. G | 8. H |
| 4. B | 9. O |
| 5. C | 10. K |

Part III: Identification (10 points)

1. 4
2. 8
3. 5
4. 7
5. 1

Part IV: Completion (20 points)

- | | |
|------------------|--------------|
| 1. Mr. Wickfield | 6. warehouse |
| 2. Littimer | 7. tenth |
| 3. box | 8. Blossom |
| 4. Martha | 9. grave |
| 5. Jip | 10. Barkis |



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