

# KNOWING BETTER...



## Charles Dickens

Charles Dickens \_\_\_\_\_ (be) born Charles John Huffam Dickens on February 7, 1812, in Portsmouth. In 1822, the Dickens family \_\_\_\_\_ (move) to Camden Town, a poor neighborhood in London. Following his father's imprisonment, Charles Dickens \_\_\_\_\_ (leave) school to work at a boot-blacking factory alongside the River Thames. At the factory, Dickens \_\_\_\_\_ (earn) six shillings a week labeling pots of "blacking," a substance used to clean fireplaces. Looking back on the experience, Dickens \_\_\_\_\_ (see) it as the moment he \_\_\_\_\_ (say) goodbye to his youthful innocence. Much to his relief, Dickens \_\_\_\_\_ (go) back to school when his father \_\_\_\_\_ (receive) a family inheritance and \_\_\_\_\_ (use) it to pay off his debts. Dickens \_\_\_\_\_ (begin) freelance reporting at the law courts of London. In 1833, he \_\_\_\_\_ (submit) sketches to various magazines and newspapers under the pseudonym "Boz." In 1836, he \_\_\_\_\_ (publish) his clippings in his first book, *Sketches by Boz*. Dickens' first success \_\_\_\_\_ (catch) the eye of Catherine Hogarth, whom he soon \_\_\_\_\_ (marry).

Around this time, Dickens \_\_\_\_\_ (become) publisher of a magazine called *Bentley's Miscellany*. In it he \_\_\_\_\_ (start) publishing his first novel, *Oliver Twist*. Over the next few years, Dickens \_\_\_\_\_ (struggle) to match the level of *Oliver Twist's* success.



From 1838 to 1841, he \_\_\_\_\_ (publish) *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby*, *The Old Curiosity Shop* and *Barnaby Rudge*. In 1842, Dickens and his wife, Kate, \_\_\_\_\_ (embark) on a five-month lecture tour of the United States. From 1849 to 1850, Dickens \_\_\_\_\_ (work) on *David Copperfield*, the first work of its kind: a novel that simply \_\_\_\_\_ (follow) a character through his everyday life. In 1865, Dickens \_\_\_\_\_ (be) in a train accident and never fully \_\_\_\_\_ (recover). On June 9, 1870, Dickens \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a stroke and, at age 58, \_\_\_\_\_ (die).

